

Sermon: Choosing a Life Purpose

Scripture: Philippians 1:12-26

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Philippians 1:20-21 (NASB95)

²⁰ *according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I shall not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ shall even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.*

²¹ *For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*

1. Paul's Life Purpose Determined How He Viewed His _____.
_____ (vs 12-19)

Philippians 1:12-19 (NASB95)

¹² *Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel,*

¹³ *so that my imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else,*

¹⁴ *and that most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear.*

¹⁵ *Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ even from envy and strife, but some also from good will;*

¹⁶ *the latter do it out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel;*

¹⁷ *the former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition rather than from pure motives, thinking to cause me distress in my imprisonment.*

¹⁸ *What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice,*

¹⁹ *for I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,*

2. Paul's Life Purpose Determined How He Made His _____.
_____ (vs 22-26)

Philipians 1:22-26 (NASB95)

22 But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose.

23 But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better;

24 yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake.

25 And convinced of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy in the faith,

26 so that your proud confidence in me may abound in Christ Jesus through my coming to you again.

Important Takeaway

One's life purpose can only be eternal after experiencing a life-changing encounter with Christ. And if one's lifestyle, use of time and life focus is temporal, one must assume they have perhaps never experienced such an encounter.

My Reality #1

I realized I had an insurmountable debt I could not pay, for which I knew I had to eventually give an account.

God's Truth

Every living person has an insurmountable moral debt that must be paid and there will one day be a final moral audit.

Romans 3:23 (NASB95)

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

Romans 6:23a (NASB95)

²³ For the wages of sin is death ...

Hebrews 9:27 (NASB95)

²⁷ And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment

WE LOST IT ALL!**My Reality #2**

I knew I had to eventually meet the owner who, to my great surprise, and at his own expense, cancelled my insurmountable debt.

God's Truth

Only Jesus' death on the cross can cancel man's moral debt.

Colossians 2:13-14 (NASB95)

¹³ When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,

¹⁴ having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

HE DID IT ALL!**My Reality #3**

As a result, what the owner did for me created in me a forever love for a man, who until then, I had never met.

God's Truth

The cancellation of man's moral debt includes a gift of God's perfect righteousness, which when comprehended, leads to a love for God and a desire to obey Him.

Philippians 3:9 (NASB95)

⁹ and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith,

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NASB95)

²¹ He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Luke 7:47 (NASB95)

⁴⁷ For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little.

WE GET IT ALL!