

The Meaning and Purpose in Life

Luke 12:13-21

Introduction

- A. One of the most profound and important questions ever asked has to do with the meaning and purpose of life. The Bible states that life is short (James 4:13-15), that it is not measured by possessions (Luke 12:13-21), and that its meaning and purpose is living for the glory of God (I Peter 2:9).
- B. Why should we glorify God? Because He is worthy? What do we do with life's treasures? We build museums to protect and display them because they are worthy.

I. The Biblical Position: Live for the Glory of God.

A. The Position Stated.

What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which you have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price, **therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's** (I Cor 6:19,20). See also I Cor 10:31.

Comment: These verses emphasize the necessity of evaluating our daily life. We are clearly instructed to seek to glorify God in whatever we do. The implication is equally clear: we must refuse involvement in any attitudes and actions that do not glorify God.

B. The Provision for Living For God's Glory.

1. The provision of salvation.

Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, **to the praise of the glory of his grace.** ...(Eph 1:5,6)

2. The provision of divine providence.

In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will, **that we should be to the praise of his glory ...** (Eph 1:11,12).

3. The provision in the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

In whom ye also trusted, after ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, **unto the praise of his glory** (Eph 1:13,14).

II. The Key to Glorifying God: Love Him and Do Those Things that Honor Him.

A. The Command.

Jesus said, Thou shalt **love the Lord thy God** with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind (Matt 22:37).

Comment: To love God means, in part, to (1) Recognize Him as the Great and Infinite Person He is, (2) Give Him rightful place in our life, (3) Do what is right by Him, sacrificially, for His glory.

B. The Exhortation.

1. Good works will glorify God.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and **glorify your Father** which is in heaven (Matt 5:16).

2. Worship and praise will glorify God.

By him therefore let us offer **the sacrifice of praise to God** continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name (Heb 13:15).

3. All ministry will glorify Him.

As every man hath received the gift, even so minister ... **that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ...**(I Peter 4:10,11).

III. The Daily Goal in Glorifying God: Seek to Please Him.

A. The Daily Goal of Pleasing God was a Major Part of Paul's Ministry.

Furthermore then we beseech you ... **How ye ought to walk (live) and to please God, so ye would abound more and more** (I Thess 4:1).

B. God works in us to enable us to please Him.

Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. **For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do his good pleasure** (Phil 2:12,13).

C. Illustrations of pleasing God.

1. Obedience is pleasing to God, I Sam 15:22.
2. Reverence and trust is pleasing to God, Ps 147:11
3. Prayer is pleasing to God, Prov 15:8
4. Sacrificing for others is pleasing to God, Phil 4:18.