

**Slide 1**

# Why Am I Here?

## COLOSSIANS 1:9-12

### Introduction

**Slide 2**

1. All of us at some point in our lives ask three very important questions:
  - a. Where did I come from?
  - b. Where am I going?
  - c. Why am I here?
2. Many people in our country today do not have a sense of purpose.
3. Sadly, there are those who, as Christians, do not know their purpose in life?

**Slide 3**

4. Why is it that we who are disciples of Christ do not know our life purpose?
  - a. We are more interested in making money and getting ahead in life.
  - b. We feel like we are too old to stop and ponder such a question at this point in our lives.
  - c. We are distracted by everything going on around us.
  - d. We just don't want to expend the time and energy to consider it.
5. Truthfully, most of us will spend more time, money and energy planning a vacation than examining our purpose in life.

**Slide 4**

6. The author, Mark Twain, once wrote, "The two most important days in your life are the day your are born and the day you find out why."

**Slide 5**

### **A. WHAT DO WE MEAN BY THE WORD "PURPOSE"**

1. Before we go any further in our lesson this morning, there is a term which I believe we need to define. It is the word "purpose."

2. Cambridge Dictionary defines "purpose" as . . .
  - a. "The reason for doing something"
  - b. "The reason something exists"
3. Thus, when I speak of our purpose in life, I want each of you to ask yourself . . .
  - a. What is the reason for my existence?
  - b. What is my reason for doing the things I do?

**Slide 6**

**B. OUR LORD'S PURPOSE**

1. In Proverbs 19:21, the wise man Solomon once wrote, "Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand" (ESV).
2. The NIV84 translates it as "many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails" (NIV84).
3. In the fourth chapter of Luke's gospel, we find Jesus at Peter's home in Capernaum.
4. After a day of teaching and healing in the synagogue followed by a meal at Peter's house and further healing of those who were sick, the crowd came to him the next morning trying to persuade Him to stay longer.

**Slide 7**

5. He said to them, "I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose" (Luke 4:43).
6. In John 12, Jesus is in Jerusalem at the beginning of the week leading up to His crucifixion.
7. Some Greeks come to Philip and tell him they "wish to see Jesus" (v. 20).
8. Philip tells Andrew who in turn tells Jesus.
9. Hearing this, Jesus says, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth

and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" (John 12:23-24).

**7a**

10. Three verses later He adds, "Now my soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, 'Father, save Me from this hour? But for this purpose I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your name'" (John 12:27-28a, NASB95).

- a. "... for this cause I came unto this hour" (KJV).
- b. "... for this very reason I came to this hour" (NIV84).

**7b**

11. In 1 John 3:8, the apostle John wrote, "The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil."

12. Jesus had a purpose in coming to this earth. It was to . . .

- a. "Preach the kingdom of God" throughout Israel.
- b. Glorify His Father by dying for our sins through His death on the cross.
- c. "Destroy the works of the devil" through that death and subsequent resurrection.

**Slide 8**

**C. PAUL'S PURPOSE**

- 1. In his letter to the church in Colosse, the apostle Paul spoke of his own purpose.
- 2. In Colossians 1:28-29, he wrote, "We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, with mightily works within me."

**Slide 9**

**D. WE ARE CALLED FOR A PURPOSE**

- 1. In Paul's letter to the Christians in Rome, he wrote, "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those

who are called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28; NASB95).

**2. Paul said that God’s purpose for us involves our living holy and godly lives:**

**a. In 1 Thessalonians 4:7, Paul told the brethren in Thessalonica, “For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification.”**

**1) Four verses before this He wrote, “For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is . . .”**

**a) “that you abstain from sexual immorality”**

**b) “that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God” (vv. 4-5).**

**c) “that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is the avenger in all these things” (v. 6).**

**b. In 1 Timothy 4:7, Paul instructed Timothy to “discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness”**

**9b**

**3. In 1 Peter 2:21, the apostle Peter speaks of another purpose for which we have been called and uses Christ as our example.**

“For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you’re an example for you to follow in His steps” (1 Peter 2:21, NASB95).

**a. The purpose for which we have been called is our patient endurance of unjust treatment as followers of Christ.**

**b. At the end of verse 20, he wrote, “if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God.”**

**4. Ultimately our purpose is to “walk in a manner worthy of the Lord” (Colossians 1:10).**

**Slide 10**

5. Look at what Paul writes in his letter to the Christians in Colosse. In Colossians 1:9-10 we find this:

“For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;” (Colossians 1:9–10, NASB95)

6. In verse 10, Paul tells us what such a walk should look like.
- a. We seek “to please Him in all respects”
    - 1) We “try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord” (Ephesians 5:10).
    - 2) Once we learn what that is, we do not just go through the motions.
    - 3) No, we do God’s will from the heart (Ephesians 6:6).
    - 4) It is that inner motivation of the heart which keeps us doing those things which please Him.
  - b. We keep “bearing fruit in every good work”
    - 1) In the upper room, before His betrayal, Jesus told His disciples, “I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing” (John 15:5).
    - 2) As you and I “walk in a manner worthy of the Lord,” as we remain in Christ and seek “to please Him in all respects,” we will find ourselves “bearing fruit in every good work.”
    - 3) That fruit may be . . .
      - a) The fruit of the Spirit — love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control (Galatians 5:22-

- 23) — a change within us.
  - b) A favorable response toward Christ and His church by those outside the church — “having favor with all the people” (Acts 2:47).
  - c) Souls brought to Christ — four verses earlier, Paul spoke of “the gospel” as “constantly bearing fruit” “in all the world” and there in Colosse (v. 6).
- c. We are continually “increasing in the knowledge of God”
- 1) Many years earlier, God spoke through His prophet, Jeremiah, and said of His people living in Judah, “. . . My people are foolish, they know Me not; they are stupid children and have no understanding. They are shrewd to do evil, but to do good they do not know” (Jeremiah 4:22).
  - 2) Five chapters later, in Jeremiah 9:3, God spoke again of the sins of His people and said, “‘They bend their tongue like their bow; lies and not truth prevail in the land; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they do not know Me,’ declares the Lord.”
  - 3) Yet He spoke of a time in the future when, as He said, “I will give them a heart to know Me, for I am the Lord; and they will be My people, and I will be their God, for they will return to Me with their whole heart” (Jeremiah 24:7).
  - 4) When you and I are continually “increasing in [our] knowledge of God,” we want to . . .
    - a) Walk in a manner worthy of the Lord
    - b) Please Him in all respects
    - c) Bear fruit in every good work
  - 5) The question we should each stop and ask ourselves is, “How well

do I know God?"

## Conclusion

1. Do you know where you came from and why you are here?
  - a. You are the creation of a loving God.
  - b. You are here to fulfill His purpose in your life.
2. That purpose is to "walk in a manner worthy of the Lord."
3. Each of us makes a choice to either to fulfill God's purpose in our lives or to completely abandon that purpose and plot our own course.

### Slide 11

4. The choice we make will determine where we spend eternity, either . . .
  - a. with God in a place of eternal life with great joy, or
  - b. far away from Him in a place of eternal torment.
5. Please, choose today to fulfill His purpose in your life.
6. I promise you, you will not regret it.