

The Meaning of Life

Intro:

1. Everest climber - Lost hands, nose - and nearly his life - to severe frostbite. Was seeking to “validate” himself; concluded “it was in my own back yard all the time.”
2. Some live on cutting edge of danger, others engage in reckless debauchery, while yet others are driven by applause. Some find no meaning and turn to drugs, demonism and even death.
3. Don't mean to be presumptive or trivialize but not as complex as some make it.

1. PURPOSE - Why Am I Here?

A. Man is a unique creature; he has self-awareness. We reflect upon our existence. We ask, “Why am I here?” and “Of what value is my life?”

B. Where to look for purpose?

1. Possessions: “My purpose is to make as much money and surround myself with as many comforts and luxuries as I can afford.”
 - a. Lk 12:15 - Concise and uncomplicated but hard to practice.
 - b. Mt 6:19-21 - Earthly treasures are unstable, unpredictable. Those living in CA should especially know this!
2. Pleasure: “My purpose is to enjoy myself and do what makes me happy.” Excessive, unrestrained effort to amuse, entertain, and recreate ourselves is often self-destructive. Self-indulgence does not satisfy purpose.
3. Power: “My purpose is to be in control and answer to no one.” Jesus on service: Mt 20:28. **Illus:** Appeal of Mother Teresa (but not all want to emulate it). When we invest in the betterment of others, we come closest to reproducing the character of God.

C. Our purpose realized when we look **outside** ourselves to our Creator - Ecc 12:13-14. Evolutionary ideology destroys the most crucial element of human well-being: *sense of purpose*.

2. PEACE: How Can I Find Harmony?

A. The world invests in peace: military deterrence, UN negotiations, pacts, treaties,

detente, conflict resolution seminars, arbitration, mediation, police officers, etc. Disharmony, discord, disruption produce anxiety, agitation, frustration. They rob us of rest, appetite, joy and lightness of spirit.

B. We need peace ...

1. Within ourselves. We know our deepest thoughts, greatest faults, worst failures. Choosing a course that affirms us in our faults or denies them is only cosmetic. *Real* relief is a freed conscience - Heb 9:14.
2. With others. Grudges, arguments, bitterness, and revenge all work to make life harder. We are *social* beings; we need each other. Rom 12:18.
 - a. On reconciliation - Mt 5:23-24.
 - b. On enemies - Mt 5:43-46.
 - c. On forgiveness - Mk 11:25-26.
3. With God. Only **one thing** threatens this - **sin**. Reconciliation is in Jesus - 2 Cor 5:18-21; Eph 2:14-17.

C. If implemented these principles would create the climate of peace sought by many.

3. PERPETUITY - Where Am I Going?

- A. All animals have an innate sense of self-preservation but it goes much further in man. Man contemplates his death and what lies “beyond.”
- B. Earthly life is only a vapor (Jas 4:14). It quickly fades. Then what?.
- C. Jesus came offering *eternal* life. But He stressed the continuing life of the inner man - the soul.
 1. It begins with an attitude - Jn 12:25.
 2. It embraces the person of Christ - Jn 6:35, 47. Life in His name - Jn 20:30-31

Conclusion:

1. The meaning of life is not found in endorsement deals, Oscars, gold medals, magazine covers. Many try to catch the TD pass, hit home runs, etc. in quest for self-validation.
2. Back to Everest. Another climber died; he was at the top, speaking by phone, seen via telescope. His friends, colleagues, even *wife* couldn't coax him to fight the cold and come down the mountain. *They couldn't do it for him! No one can be saved for you!*