**Title: What Are You Living For?**

**Text: Ephesians 2:10b**

IF I WERE TO ASK YOU, WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR LIFE, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

Do you have any life goals? Have you written out for yourself your life’s mission statement?

* You and I were created for far more than just to make a living for ourselves
* To just get through this life.

One time I asked a fellow Christian how they were doing and their answer was, “I am existing”

* We were made for so much more than to simply exist.
* Like the song we sometimes sing – We were made for more than to survive – we were made to thrive

As we said last week, we were made for god

We were created with a divine purpose

This life and this world isn’t all there is – THERE IS MORE

* WHEN WE CLOSE OUR EYES IN DEATH WE WILL OPEN THEM SOMEWHERE

The Apostle Paul said (1 Cor. 15:19) “If in this life only we have hope in Christ then we are of all men most miserable “

SOMEONE ONCE SAID, “When it is all said and done, it’s not all said and done”

Another person said, “When it is all said and done, there is more said than done”

I WOULD HATE TO THINK THAT WHEN THIS LIFE ENDS – THAT IT WAS TRULY THE END.

* God created us with eternity in mind
* The thing that separates us from the rest of creation is the fact that in Genesis 2:7 “God breathed into the nostrils of man and he became a living soul”. That is not said of any other created being.

Our life is not about how much money we can make, or the position we have or our possessions.

* What good will any of that do us when we are laying on our death bed
* We will not ask for our degrees hanging on our walls
* We won’t ask for the title to our new car or new boat or the deed to our prosperity

The only thing that will matter at that point will be have we lived our life for God’s purpose.

Jesus put it in perspective when he said

Matthew 16:26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

The book of Ecclesiastes

vanity of vanities; all is vanity.

3What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun?

4One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh:

HE GOES ON TO SAY... whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour.

11Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun.

Then at the end of the book he says Ch. 12: 13-14

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

14For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

We need purpose that exceeds simply existing and getting by…

We must live according to God’s purpose

Illustration: In 2002 Rick Warren wrote a book entitled “The Purpose Driven Live”. It has sold over 30 million copies. WHY?

BECAUSE YOU WERE CREATED WITH A PURPOSE!

It is clear from our scripture text this morning that God created you with a purpose.

AS WE STATED LAST WEEK – WE WERE CREATED TO BRING GLORY TO GOD!

And doing good works is one of the ways we give God glory!

It has been said, “What God has given to us is His gift to us but what we do with what He has given to us is our gift back to God”.

LISTEN TO WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS

1 Cor. 10:31 whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

[Colossians 3:17](http://biblehub.com/colossians/3-17.htm)
And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

[1 Peter 4:11](http://biblehub.com/1_peter/4-11.htm)
If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

       Paul tells us that we are “***created in Christ Jesus unto good works***”.

* Works do not save us, but works are a sure product of our salvation.
* The word “***good***” means, “***that which excels; is useful; of a good nature***.”
* The word “***works***” refers to “***employment; that with which one is occupied.***” In other words, it refers to how you spend your time.

To those of us who are redeemed, we will live a life that is occupied with deeds that reflect well on the Lord Jesus Christ,

Phil. 1:27 Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.

WHEN YOU ARE IN A TRUE RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD – YOU WILL PUT OFF THE WORKS OF DARKNESS AND YOU WILL BEGIN DOING THE WORKS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

If God is in your heart, He will let His presence be known through the way you live your life

According to Galatians 5:22, 23 our life will be characterized by the fruit of the Spirit.

* Don’t tell me that you love God but don’t possess love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23gentleness and self-control.
* Jesus said we will be known by our fruits (or our works)
* He said (Matt. 7:16) a corrupt tree brings forth corrupt fruit and a good tree brings forth good fruit

***Matt. 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.***