

QUALITY
OF
LIFE
BIBLE
STUDY



Purpose®

COMPILED BY
S.MCRAE

SENSE OF PURPOSE

Quality of Life Series

LEADER: WHAT IS YOUR PURPOSE IN LIFE?

Are you enthusiastic about it?
Are you doing it to God's glory?

READER: QUOTE #1

Source ~ http://www.wisdomquotes.com/cat_purpose.html

"The purpose of life is a life of purpose." - Robert Byrne, Author

READER: QUOTE # 2 From: Bits & Pieces

Source ~ <http://www.christianglobe.com/illustrations/theDetails.asp?whichOne=d&whichFile=direction>

"We act as though comfort and luxury were the chief requirements of life, when all that we need to make us really happy is something to be enthusiastic about." - Charles Kingsley, 1819-1875, Most famous book: The Water Babies written for his youngest son. Kingsley held the post of Professor of Modern History at Cambridge University between 1860-69

READER: "Making a Difference" From: Dr. Dale E. Turner, MSC Health Action News

Source ~ <http://www.christianglobe.com/illustrations/theDetails.asp?whichOne=d&whichFile=direction>

John W. Gardner, founding chairman of Common Cause, said it's a rare and high privilege to help people understand the difference they can make -- not only in their own lives, but also in the lives of others, simply by giving of themselves.

Gardner tells of a cheerful old man who asked the same question of just about every new acquaintance he fell into conversation with: "What have you done that you believe in and you are proud of?"

He never asked conventional questions such as "What do you do for a living?" It was always, "What have you done that you believe in and are proud of?"

It was an unsettling question for people who had built their self-esteem on their wealth or their family name or their exalted job title.

Not that the old man was a fierce interrogator. He was delighted by a woman who answered, "I'm doing a good job raising three children;" and by a cabinetmaker who said, "I believe in good workmanship and practice it;" and by a woman who said, "I started a bookstore and it's the best bookstore for miles around."

"I don't really care how they answer," said the old man. "I just want to put the thought into their minds.

"They should live their lives in such a way that they can have a good answer. Not a good answer for me, but for themselves. That's what's important."

READER QUOTE # 3

Source ~ http://www.cybernation.com/victory/quotations/subjects/quotes_purpose.html

"The first thing to do in life is to do with purpose what one purposes to do." - Pablo Casals (1876-1973 Great cellist, conductor composer)

READER QUOTE # 4

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"A man without a purpose is like a ship without a rudder--a waif, a nothing, a no man. Have a purpose in life, and, having it, throw such strength of mind and muscle into your work as God has given you." - Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881 English Author)

READER QUOTE # 5

Source ~ http://www.cybernation.com/victory/quotations/subjects/quotes_purpose.html

"What makes life dreary is the want of a motive." - George Eliot , novelist, translator, writer (Pen name for Mary Anne Evans 1819-1880)

READER: QUOTE #6

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“Men who live in the past remind me of a toy I’m sure all of you have seen. The toy is a small wooden bird called the “Floogie Bird.” Around the Floogie Bird’s neck is a label reading, “I fly backwards, I don’t care where I’m going. I just want to see where I’ve been.” - Harry S. Truman 33rd President of the United States

READER: QUOTE #7

Source ~ http://www.wisdomquotes.com/cat_purpose.html

“I never see what has been done; I only see what remains to be done.” - Marie Curie (Marie Curie 1867-1934 is the most famous woman of physics. She has been recognized for her work with Nobel Prize awards in both physics 1903 and chemistry 1911.)

READER: Philippians 3:13-14

Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended, but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward toward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

READER: “Alice in Wonderland”

Source ~ <http://www.christianglobe.com/Illustrations/theDetails.asp?whichOne=d&whichFile=direction>

Christians without goals are a little like Alice in the fairy tale Alice in Wonderland. In a conversation between her and the Cheshire Cat, Alice asked, “Would you tell me please, which way I ought to go from here?” “That depends a good deal on where you want to get to,” said the cat. “I don’t much care where,” said Alice. “Then it doesn’t matter which way you go,” said the cat. Source Unknown.

READER: QUOTE #8

Source ~ http://www.cybernation.com/victory/quotations/subjects/quotes_purpose.html

“What makes life dreary is the want of a motive.” - George Eliot (pen name for Author Mary Ann Evans 1819-1880)

LEADER: Are you looking forward with purpose?**READER: QUOTE #9**

From: Source ~ http://www.wisdomquotes.com/cat_purpose.html

“Many people have a wrong idea of what constitutes true happiness. It is not attained through self-gratification, but through fidelity to a worthy purpose.” - Helen Keller

LEADER: Are you happy in your purpose?**READER: QUOTE #10**

From: Source ~ http://www.wisdomquotes.com/cat_purpose.html

“I have learned, that if one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours.” - Henry David Thoreau, Author 1817-1935

LEADER: Are you advancing toward your dreams with purpose?**READER: “Dan Rather” From Our Daily Bread**

Source ~ <http://www.christianglobe.com/Illustrations/theDetails.asp?whichOne=d&whichFile=direction>

News commentator Dan Rather has a good way of keeping his professional objective always in mind. He says he looks often at a question he’s written on three slips of paper. He keeps one in his billfold, one in his pocket, and one on his desk. The probing reminder asks, “Is what you are doing now helping the broadcast?”

LEADER: Is what you are doing furthering your commitment to purpose?**READER: “Learning to Read” J.M. Boice**

Source ~ <http://www.christianglobe.com/Illustrations/theDetails.asp?whichOne=d&whichFile=direction>

There is a story involving Yogi Berra, the well-known catcher for the New York Yankees, and Hank Aaron, who at that time was the chief power hitter for the Milwaukee Braves. The teams were playing in the World Series, and as usual Yogi was keeping up his ceaseless chatter, intended to pep up his teammates on the one hand, and distract the Milwaukee batters on the other. As Aaron came to the plate, Yogi tried to distract him by saying, "Henry, you're holding the bat wrong. You're supposed to hold it so you can read the trademark." Aaron didn't say anything, but when the next pitch came he hit it into the left-field bleachers. After rounding the bases and tagging up at home plate, Aaron looked at Yogi Berra and said, "I didn't come up here to read."

LEADER: Are you staying focused on your purpose?

READER: QUOTE #11

Source ~ http://www.cybernation.com/victory/quotations/subjects/quotes_purpose.html

"The purpose of man is in action not thought." - Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881 English Author)

LEADER: Are you taking action with your purpose?

READER: "The Daffodil Principle"

Source ~ http://www.sermonillustrator.org/illustrator/sermon3/daffodil_principle.htm

"You will never forgive yourself if you miss this experience," my daughter said. After about twenty minutes, we turned onto a small gravel road and I saw a small church. On the far side of the church, I saw a hand lettered sign that read, "Daffodil Garden."

We got out of the car and each took a child's hand, and I followed Carolyn down the path. Then, we turned a corner of the path, and I looked up and gasped. Before me lay the most glorious sight. It looked as though someone had taken a great vat of gold and poured it down over the mountain peak and slopes. The flowers were planted in majestic, swirling patterns great ribbons and swaths of deep orange, white, lemon yellow, salmon pink, saffron, and butter yellow. Each different colored variety was planted as a group so that it swirled and flowed like its own river with its own unique hue.

There were five acres of flowers. "But who has done this?" I asked Carolyn. "It's just one woman," Carolyn answered. "She lives on the property. That's her home." Carolyn pointed to a well kept "A" frame house that looked small and modest in the midst of all that glory. We walked up to the house. On the patio, we saw a poster.

"Answers to the Questions I Know You Are Asking" was the headline.

The first answer was a simple one. "50,000 bulbs," it read.

The second answer was, "One at a time, by one woman. Two hands, two feet, and very little brain." The third answer was, "Began in 1958."

There it was, The Daffodil Principle. For me, that moment was a life changing experience. I thought of this woman whom I had never met, who, more than forty years before, had begun one bulb at a time-to bring her vision of beauty and joy to an obscure mountain top. Still, just planting one bulb at a time, year after year, had changed the world.

This unknown woman had forever changed the world in which she lived. She had created something of ineffable (indescribable) magnificence, beauty, and inspiration. The principle her daffodil garden taught is one of the greatest principles of celebration. That is, learning to move toward our goals and desires one step at a time often just one baby step at a time-and learning to love the doing, learning to use the accumulation of time. When we multiply tiny pieces of time with small increments of daily effort, we too will find we can accomplish magnificent things. We can change the world.

"It makes me sad in a way," I admitted to Carolyn. "What might I have accomplished if I had thought of a wonderful goal thirty-five or forty years ago and had worked away at it 'one bulb at a time' through all those years. Just think what I might have been able to achieve!"

My daughter summed up the message of the day in her usual direct way. "Start tomorrow," she said. It's so pointless to think of the lost hours of yesterdays. The way to make learning a lesson of celebration instead of a cause for regret is to only ask, "How can I put this to use today?"

LEADER: Can you start tomorrow...how 'bout today?

READER: "Life Without Purpose" (Poem)

From:Source ~ http://www.sermonillustrator.org/illustrator/sermon2b/life_without_purpose.htm

Life without purpose is barren indeed
There can't be a harvest unless you plant seed
There can't be attainment unless there's a goal
And man's but a robot unless there's a soul.

If we send no ships out, no ships will come in,
And unless there's a contest, nobody can win.
For games can't be won unless they are played,
And prayers can't be answered unless they are prayed.

So whatever is wrong with your life today
You'll find a solution if you kneel down and pray.
Not just for pleasure, enjoyment and health,
Not just for honors and prestige and wealth.

But pray for a purpose to make life worth living
And pray for the joy of unselfish giving.
For great is your gladness and rich your reward,
When you make your life's purpose the choice of the Lord.

READER: QUOTE #12

Source ~ <http://www.christianglobe.com/Illustrations/theDetails.asp?whichOne=d&whichFile=direction>

"More men fail through lack of purpose than lack of talent." - Billy Sunday (Billy Sunday: 1862-1935 pro baseball player and famous evangelist.)

READER: QUOTE #13

From: Source ~ http://www.wisdomquotes.com/cat_purpose.html

"Don't waste life in doubts and fears; spend yourself on the work before you, well assured that the right performance of this hour's duties will be the best preparation for the hours and ages that will follow it." - Ralph Waldo Emerson 1803-1882 Major American poet and writer

READER: QUOTE #14

"I see no business in life but the work of Christ." - Henry Martyn 1781-1812 (Henry Martyn's legacy- His translation-(which laid the foundations for future mission, the inspiration of his life-foundations for missionary vocation), and the stimulation of his ideas-foundations for the academic study of mission and of world Christianit).

READER: QUOTE #15

"You are only as strong as your purpose, therefore let us choose reasons to act that are big bold righteous and eternal." - Barry Munro, American Writer and Speaker

READER: "Purpose" E-Devotions and More (Excerpt)

From: Source ~ <http://www.e-devotionals.org/2000/de000202.htm>

Two dentists had passports. Both traveled to South American to do free dental work in the mission field. One of the dentists never talked about God or spiritual matters to his patients. The other always took any opportunity a patient gave him, to share his knowledge about God. The one who never spoke about God has "missionary" listed as his occupation on his passport; the other listed "dentist" as his. But in reality, one was a dentist who thought he was a missionary; the latter was a missionary who thought he was a dentist! They both are doing great works, but neither one realizes his true purpose in life.

Now let's imagine that you and I meet for the first time and I ask, "In one sentence, tell me your purpose in life." Quickly now, what is your answer? What you do for a living? Are you living for or through your children? Is your volunteer work your driving force? School? Or something else? A few months ago, I could not have answered that question in a clear concise answer. My answer would have been very long. My purpose is to

be the best husband, father, businessperson and employer that God wants me to be. Yours may be similar. As I pondered my purpose over the last few months, it has become clearer to me that these things are not my overall purpose but rather strategies to accomplish a deeper, more meaningful God given purpose. Trying to be a decent person and striving to be the best I can be, flows out of knowing my purpose. So what is my answer to the question? My purpose in life is to get to heaven and take as many people with me that I can. That's it. It sounds simple, but I think it is profound and life-changing.

READER: QUOTE #16

“The glory of God, and, as our only means to glorifying Him, the salvation of human souls, is the real business of life.” - C. S. Lewis, Christian Author 1898-1963

READER: QUOTE #17

“Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and enjoy Him forever.” - Westminster Confession of Faith

READER: Ephesians 5:15-17

Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

READER: Psalm 90:12-17

*So teach us to number our days,
That we may present to You a heart of wisdom.
Do return, O LORD; how long will it be?
And be sorry for Your servants.
O satisfy us in the morning with Your lovingkindness,
That we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.
Make us glad according to the days You have afflicted us,
And the years we have seen evil.
Let Your work appear to Your servants
And Your majesty to their children.
Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us;
And confirm for us the work of our hands;
Yes, confirm the work of our hands.*

READER: “Number the Days” Redemption By T.M. Moore (Excerpt): From Chuck Colson’s Breakpoint Source ~ http://www.pfm.org/Content/ContentGroups/BreakPoint/Daily_Devotions/20037/November_20031/Number_the_Days.htm

Paul calls upon the redeemed of the Lord to “redeem the time”. Moses says essentially the same thing here. Given that life is so short, and filled with so many things that displease God (vv. 3-11), we need to make the best possible use of our time. This requires that we “number” our days, or determine their course in advance, how we will use them for the purposes of wisdom (v. 12). Our plan should seek whatever is pleasing to the Lord, so that we may be assured of finding Him in our midst day by day (vv. 13, 14). Plan your days to realize the gladness of the Lord, to delight in those things in which He also takes joy, and to make them the guiding priorities in all you do (v. 15). Pray that God will show you the work He wants you to do, and that He will glorify Himself in you in all you do. Seek the Lord’s guidance in planning how you will use your time, and expect Him to bless you with wisdom in all you do. When we begin to treat our time like this, redeeming it for the purposes of living in the wisdom of God, we will find that He comes alongside us to give us the strength and guidance we need for wise living in an age in flight from God.

Worldview Thought for the Day (Excerpt)
Redeem the time, or lose it – it’s up to you.

READER: Colossians 1:9-12

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; strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.

LEADER READ: “True Knowledge” By Chuck Colson BreakPoint (Excerpt)

Source ~ http://www.pfm.org/Content/ContentGroups/BreakPoint/Columns/Ars_Musica_et_Poetica/20036/Engaging_the_World.htm

True knowledge ...looks to discover God and His purposes, to know redemption and the meaning of life as God intends it. True knowledge seeks to learn the ways of God and to enter more deeply into His redeeming grace, whatever our chosen field of endeavor. People are incomplete without such knowledge, no matter how remarkable or successful their engagements with the world otherwise may be.

One area in which all people engage the world is that of work. The Christian sees work as a blessing, not a curse. Work is a gift of God for engaging the world in positive, productive ways, that can advance the beauty, goodness, and truth of God. God gives us our work, which we may take up with enthusiasm, knowing that it is precisely what He intends for us, and that we are perfectly suited for the work He has given us to do:

READER: “Work” by Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933),

Let me but do my work from day to day
In field or forest, at the desk or loom,
In roaring market-place or tranquil room;
Let me but find it in my heart to say,
When vagrant wishes beckon me astray,

“This is my work; my blessing, not my doom;
Of all who live, I am the one by whom,
This work can best be done in the right way.”
Then shall I see it not too great, nor small,
To suit my spirit and to prove my powers;

Then shall I cheerful greet the labouring hours,
And cheerful turn, when the long shadows fall
At eventide, to play and love and rest,
Because I know for me my work is best.

LEADER: It may be as simple as this:

READER: “Following Your Bliss”

Source ~ http://www.sermonillustrator.org/illustrator/sermon2/following_your_bliss.htm

Author Joseph Campbell often talked about “following your bliss.” I heard of a bus driver in Chicago who does just that. He sings while he drives. That’s right . . . SINGS! And I don’t mean he sings softly to himself, either. He sings so that the whole bus can hear! All day long he drives and sings.

He was once interviewed on Chicago television. He said that he is not actually a bus driver. “I’m a professional singer,” he asserted. “I only drive the bus to get a captive audience every single day.”

His “bliss” is not driving a bus, though that may be a source of enjoyment for some people. His bliss is singing. And the supervisors at the Chicago Transit Authority are perfectly happy about the whole arrangement. You see, people line up to ride his bus. They even let other buses pass by so they can ride with the “singing bus driver.” They love it!

Here is a man who believes he knows why he was put here on earth. For him, it is to make people happy. And the more he sings, the more people he makes happy! He has found a way to align his purpose in living with his occupation. By following his bliss, he is actually living the kind of life he believes he was meant to live.

Not everybody can identify a purpose in life. But when you do, and when you pursue it, you will be living the kind of life you feel you were meant to live. And chances are . . . you will be happy.

LEADER: Is there something holding you back from pressing on toward your goal?

READER: QUOTE # 18

“When you’re up to your neck in alligators, it’s difficult to keep your mind on the fact that your primary objective is to drain the swamp.” - Source Unknown

READER: Psalm 57:2

I will cry to God Most High,
To God who accomplishes all things for me.

LEADER:

- Maybe you haven't discovered your purpose...
- maybe life is getting you down or you're up to your neck in gators....
- Don't look back...don't look down....
- Look up...and look forward:
- Get some help in draining the swamp!
- Keep your mind on the purpose and on the One who gave it to you.
- We each have a purpose in life...ask God to direct you in yours.

COMMENTS IF TIME:

**RESERVE TEN MINUTES BEFORE CLOSING FOR
PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES:**

COPY AND DISTRIBUTE THE FOLLOWING PAGES TO YOUR READERS:

READERS

QUOTE #1

“The purpose of life is a life of purpose.” Robert Byrne, Author

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QUOTE # 2

“We act as though comfort and luxury were the chief requirements of life, when all that we need to make us really happy is something to be enthusiastic about.” - Charles Kingsley -1819-1875 Author & Professor of Modern History at Cambridge University 1860-69

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“Making a Difference”

John W. Gardner, founding chairman of Common Cause, said it’s a rare and high privilege to help people understand the difference they can make -- not only in their own lives, but also in the lives of others, simply by giving of themselves.

Gardner tells of a cheerful old man who asked the same question of just about every new acquaintance he fell into conversation with: “What have you done that you believe in and you are proud of?”

He never asked conventional questions such as “What do you do for a living?” It was always, “What have you done that you believe in and are proud of?”

It was an unsettling question for people who had built their self-esteem on their wealth or their family name or their exalted job title.

Not that the old man was a fierce interrogator. He was delighted by a woman who answered, “I’m doing a good job raising three children;” and by a cabinetmaker who said, “I believe in good workmanship and practice it;” and by a woman who said, “I started a bookstore and it’s the best bookstore for miles around.”

“I don’t really care how they answer,” said the old man. “I just want to put the thought into their minds.

“They should live their lives in such a way that they can have a good answer. Not a good answer for me, but for themselves. That’s what’s important.”

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News commentator Dan Rather has a good way of keeping his professional objective always in mind. He says he looks often at a question he’s written on three slips of paper. He keeps one in his billfold, one in his pocket, and one on his desk. The probing reminder asks, “Is what you are doing now helping the broadcast?”

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There is a story involving Yogi Berra, the well-known catcher for the New York Yankees, and Hank Aaron, who at that time was the chief power hitter for the Milwaukee Braves. The teams were playing in the World Series, and as usual Yogi was keeping up his ceaseless chatter, intended to pep up his teammates on the one hand, and distract the Milwaukee batters on the other. As Aaron came to the plate, Yogi tried to distract him by saying, “Henry, you’re holding the bat wrong. You’re supposed to hold it so you can read the trademark.” Aaron didn’t say anything, but when the next pitch came he hit it into the left-field bleachers. After rounding the bases and tagging up at home plate, Aaron looked at Yogi Berra and said, “I didn’t come up here to read.”

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“The purpose of man is in action not thought.” - Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881 English Author)

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“The Daffodil Principle”

“You will never forgive yourself if you miss this experience,” my daughter said. After about twenty minutes, we turned onto a small gravel road and I saw a small church. On the far side of the church, I saw a hand lettered sign that read, “Daffodil Garden.”

We got out of the car and each took a child’s hand, and I followed Carolyn down the path. Then, we turned a corner of the path, and I looked up and gasped. Before me lay the most glorious sight. It looked as though someone had taken a great vat of gold and poured it down over the mountain peak and slopes. The flowers were planted in majestic, swirling patterns great ribbons and swaths of deep orange, white, lemon yellow, salmon pink, saffron, and butter yellow. Each different colored variety was planted as a group so that it swirled and flowed like its own river with its own unique hue.

There were five acres of flowers. “But who has done this?” I asked Carolyn. “It’s just one woman,” Carolyn answered. “She lives on the property. That’s her home.” Carolyn pointed to a well kept “A” frame house that looked small and modest in the midst of all that glory. We walked up to the house. On the patio, we saw a poster.

“Answers to the Questions I Know You Are Asking” was the headline.

The first answer was a simple one. “50,000 bulbs,” it read.

The second answer was, “One at a time, by one woman. Two hands, two feet, and very little brain.” The third answer was, “Began in 1958.”

There it was, The Daffodil Principle. For me, that moment was a life changing experience. I thought of this woman whom I had never met, who, more than forty years before, had begun one bulb at a time-to bring her vision of beauty and joy to an obscure mountain top. Still, just planting one bulb at a time, year after year, had changed the world.

This unknown woman had forever changed the world in which she lived. She had created something of ineffable (indescribable) magnificence, beauty, and inspiration. The principle her daffodil garden taught is one of the greatest principles of celebration. That is, learning to move toward our goals and desires one step at a time often just one baby step at a time-and learning to love the doing, learning to use the accumulation of time. When we multiply tiny pieces of time with small increments of daily effort, we too will find we can accomplish magnificent things. We can change the world.

“It makes me sad in a way,” I admitted to Carolyn. “What might I have accomplished if I had thought of a wonderful goal thirty-five or forty years ago and had worked away at it ‘one bulb at a time’ through all those years. Just think what I might have been able to achieve!”

My daughter summed up the message of the day in her usual direct way. “Start tomorrow,” she said. It’s so pointless to think of the lost hours of yesterdays. The way to make learning a lesson of celebration instead of a cause for regret is to only ask, “How can I put this to use today?”

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“Life Without Purpose” (Poem)

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There can't be a harvest unless you plant seed
There can't be attainment unless there's a goal
And man's but a robot unless there's a soul.

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For games can't be won unless they are played,
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So whatever is wrong with your life today
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QUOTE #14

“ I see no business in life but the work of Christ.” - Henry Martyn 1781-1812 - legacy- His translation-which laid the foundations for future mission, the inspiration of his life-foundations for missionary vocatio), and the stimulation of his ideas-foundations for the academic study of mission and of world Christianity.

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QUOTE #15

“You are only as strong as your purpose, therefore let us choose reasons to act that are big bold righteous and eternal.” Barry Munro, American Writer and Speaker

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“Purpose”

Two dentists had passports. Both traveled to South American to do free dental work in the mission field. One of the dentists never talked about God or spiritual matters to his patients. The other always took any opportunity a patient gave him, to share his knowledge about God. The one who never spoke about God has “missionary” listed as his occupation on his passport; the other listed “dentist” as his. But in reality, one was a dentist who thought he was a missionary; the latter was a missionary who thought he was a dentist! They both are doing great works, but neither one realizes his true purpose in life.

Now let’s imagine that you and I meet for the first time and I ask, “In one sentence, tell me your purpose in life.” Quickly now, what is your answer? What you do for a living? Are you living for or through your children? Is your volunteer work your driving force? School? Or something else? A few months ago, I could not have answered that question in a clear concise answer. My answer would have been very long. My purpose is to be the best husband, father, businessperson and employer that God wants me to be. Yours may be similar. As I pondered my purpose over the last few months, it has become clearer to me that these things are not my overall purpose but rather strategies to accomplish a deeper, more meaningful God given purpose. Trying to be a decent person and striving to be the best I can be, flows out of knowing my purpose. So what is my answer to the question? My purpose in life is to get to heaven and take as many people with me that I can. That’s it. It sounds simple, but I think it is profound and life-changing.

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QUOTE #16

“The glory of God, and, as our only means to glorifying Him, the salvation of human souls, is the real business of life.” - C. S. Lewis, Christian Author 1898-1963

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QUOTE #17

“Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and enjoy Him forever.” - Westminster Confession of Faith

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Ephesians 5:15-17

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Psalms 90:12-17

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“Number the Days”

Paul calls upon the redeemed of the Lord to “redeem the time”. Moses says essentially the same thing here. Given that life is so short, and filled with so many things that displease God (vv. 3-11), we need to make the best possible use of our time. This requires that we “number” our days, or determine their course in advance, how we will use them for the purposes of wisdom (v. 12). Our plan should seek whatever is pleasing to the Lord, so that we may be assured of finding Him in our midst day by day (vv. 13, 14). Plan your days to realize the gladness of the Lord, to delight in those things in which He also takes joy, and to make them the guiding priorities in all you do (v. 15). Pray that God will show you the work He wants you to do, and that He will glorify Himself in you in all you do. Seek the Lord’s guidance in planning how you will use your time, and expect Him to bless you with wisdom in all you do. When we begin to treat our time like this, redeeming it for the purposes of living in the wisdom of God, we will find that He comes alongside us to give us the strength and guidance we need for wise living in an age in flight from God.

Worldview Thought for the Day
Redeem your time, or lose it – it’s up to you.

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Colossians 1:9-12

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“Work” by Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933),

Let me but do my work from day to day
In field or forest, at the desk or loom,
In roaring market-place or tranquil room;
Let me but find it in my heart to say,
When vagrant wishes beckon me astray,

“This is my work; my blessing, not my doom;
Of all who live, I am the one by whom,
This work can best be done in the right way.”
Then shall I see it not too great, nor small,
To suit my spirit and to prove my powers;

Then shall I cheerful greet the labouring hours,
And cheerful turn, when the long shadows fall
At eventide, to play and love and rest,
Because I know for me my work is best.

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“Following Your Bliss”

Author Joseph Campbell often talked about “following your bliss.” I heard of a bus driver in Chicago who does just that.

He sings while he drives. That’s right . . . SINGS! And I don’t mean he sings softly to himself, either. He sings so that the whole bus can hear! All day long he drives and sings.

He was once interviewed on Chicago television. He said that he is not actually a bus driver. “I’m a professional singer,” he asserted. “I only drive the bus to get a captive audience every single day.”

His “bliss” is not driving a bus, though that may be a source of enjoyment for some people. His bliss is singing. And the supervisors at the Chicago Transit Authority are perfectly happy about the whole arrangement. You see, people line up to ride his bus. They even let other busses pass by so they can ride with the “singing bus driver.” They love it!

Here is a man who believes he knows why he was put here on earth. For him, it is to make people happy. And the more he sings, the more people he makes happy! He has found a way to align his purpose in living with his occupation. By following his bliss, he is actually living the kind of life he believes he was meant to live.

Not everybody can identify a purpose in life. But when you do, and when you pursue it, you will be living the kind of life you feel you were meant to live. And chances are . . . you will be happy.

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QUOTE # 18

“When you’re up to your neck in alligators, it’s difficult to keep your mind on the fact that your primary objective is to drain the swamp.” Source Unknown

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Psalm 57:2