

## Finding a Purpose That Lasts

**Our Mission: To take as many people to Heaven as we can before we die. Period.**

The Lord has made everything for his own purposes... **Proverbs 16:4 TLB**

### **1. The World will not and cannot satisfy you.**

#### **Pleasure won't satisfy you.**

I said to myself, "Come on, let's try pleasure. Let's look for the 'good things' in life." But I found that this, too, was meaningless... I decided to cheer myself with wine. And while still seeking wisdom, I clutched at foolishness. In this way, I tried to experience the only happiness most people find during their brief life in this world. **Ecclesiastes 2:1-3 NLT**

#### **Riches won't satisfy you.**

I also tried to find meaning by building huge homes for myself and by planting beautiful vineyards...I also owned large herds and flocks, more than any of the kings who had lived in Jerusalem before me. I collected great sums of silver and gold...I hired wonderful singers, both men and women... **Ecclesiastes 2:4-8 NLT**

#### **Illicit sex won't satisfy you.**

...and had many beautiful concubines. I had everything a man could desire! **Ecclesiastes 2:8 NLT**

#### **Fame and power won't satisfy you.**

So I became greater than all who had lived in Jerusalem before me, and my wisdom never failed me. Anything I wanted, I would take. I denied myself no pleasure. **Ecclesiastes 2:9-10 NLT**

#### **Total success won't satisfy you.**

I even found great pleasure in hard work, a reward for all my labors. But as I looked at everything I had worked so hard to accomplish, it was all so meaningless—like chasing the wind. There was nothing really worthwhile anywhere. **Ecclesiastes 2:10-11 NLT**

So I came to hate life because...Everything is meaningless...and depressing. **Ecclesiastes 2:17,4:8 NLT**

### **2. Fulfilling God's purpose for your life will satisfy you.**

All has been heard; the end of the matter is: Fear God...worship Him..and keep His commandments, for this is...the full, original purpose of his creation...the foundation of all happiness...the adjustment to all inharmonious circumstances and conditions under the sun..and the whole duty for every man. **Ecclesiastes 12:13 AMP**

You, Lord, give perfect peace to those who keep their purpose firm and put their trust in You. **Isaiah 26:3 TEV**

### **3. Your purpose is to give glory to God and make Him known!**

It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up, he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone. **Ephesians 1:11 MSG**

"Teacher, which is the most important commandment...?" Jesus replied, " 'You must love the LORD your God with all your heart...soul...and...mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments." **Matthew 22:36-37 NLT**

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." **Matthew 28:19-20 NIV**

**Message Notes:** The Holy Bible, New Living Translation, New International Version, Today's English Version. The Living Bible, paraphrased edition. The Amplified Bible. The Message, by Eugene Peterson. The Purpose Driven Life, by Rick Warren. The Bible Knowledge Commentary, Ecclesiastes 2 and 12.