

The Christian Arsenal

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WHAT IS THE MEANING OF MY LIFE? Revisiting our Purpose

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Part 1 of 7

LIFE'S THREE GREATEST QUESTIONS:

1. QUESTION OF EXISTENCE: WHY AM I ALIVE?

"Why was I born? Was it only to have trouble and sorrow to end my life in disgrace?" Jeremiah 20:18 (TEV)

Quote from Ashley Brilliant: "My life is a superb cast, but I can't figure out the plot."

Quote from Jack Hanley: "I hope life isn't a joke, because I don't get it."

Quote from Carl Yung: "I don't know the meaning, the purpose of life, but it looks as if something were meant by it."

Quote from Isaac Asimov: "As far as I can see, there is no purpose."

Joseph Taylor, authored I Have No Answers to the Meaning of Life and I no Longer Want to Search for Any.

These are all tragic statements because a life without purpose isn't a life worth living.

APPROACHES PEOPLE TAKE:

- The **Mystical** Approach – "look within and find your purpose within"
- The **Philosophical** Approach – "the purpose of life is just to stay alive."
- The **Naturalist** Approach – "the purpose of life is just to perpetuate itself."

Rap artist, IceTea wrote: "The only reason we're here is to reproduce. Just chill out and reproduce. Keep the species alive."

- The **Hedonist** Approach: "the purpose of life is pleasure – have fun, party-hardy."
- The **Materialist** Approach: "Life is all about the acquisition of things – your life is measured by what you own."

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Being a success and knowing your purpose in life are not the same thing – you can be a raving success in life and still never know, “What on Earth am I Here For?”

You were made by God and you were made for God and you were put here for His purposes. And until you understand that, life isn't going to make sense.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

“The Lord has made everything for His own purpose.” Prov. 16:4 a (GW)

God's motive: *“Long before He laid down earth's foundation, he had us in mind, and settled on us as the focus of his love, to be made whole and holy by his love.”* Eph 1:4 (Msg)

God made you to love you! You were created to be loved by God!

2. QUESTION OF SIGNIFICANCE: DOES MY LIFE MATTER?

“My work all seems so useless! I have spent my strength for nothing and for no purpose at all.” Isaiah 49: 4a (NLT)

THREE LEVELS OF LIVING:

- Survival Level
- Success Level
- Significance Level

3 Things at this level:

1. You know the meaning of life.
2. You know how much you matter to God.
3. You know God's purposes for your life and you're living them out.

“I am your Creator. You were in my care even before you were born.” Isaiah 44:2 (CEV)

“You ... scheduled each day of my life before I began to breathe. Every day was recorded in your book!” Psalm 139:16 (LB)

“His plans endure forever, his purposes last eternally.” Psalm 33:11 (GN)

On earth God wants you to practice the things you're going to do in heaven forever and forever and ever.

GOD'S MOTIVE: I WAS MADE TO LAST FOREVER.

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This is the key to the meaning of life – Realizing that life is preparation for eternity.

“When this tent we live in – our body here on earth – is torn down, God will have a house in heaven for us to live in, a home he himself has made, which will last forever.” 2 Cor. 5:1 (TEV)

“Leave your impoverished confusion and live! Walk up the street to a life of meaning.” Prov 9:6 (Msg)

3. QUESTION OF INTENTION: WHAT IS MY PURPOSE?

“Why did you create us? For nothing?” Psalm 89:47 (NCV)

Bertrand Russell: “Unless you assume the existence of God, the question of life’s meaning and purpose are irrelevant.”

You see if there is no God – you are a freak chance of nature.

- you are just complex pond scum
- your life really doesn’t matter.

If you don’t know something’s purpose, it is likely to be abused.

“Knowing God results in every other kind of understanding.” Prov 9:10b (LB)

GOD’S MOTIVE: I FIND MY PURPOSE BY GETTING TO KNOW GOD.

“For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible ... everything got started in Him and finds its purpose in Him.” Col 1:16 (Msg)

QUESTION: Is the rest of your life, and is all of the rest of your eternity, worth a few hours of your time, now?

People here are at different stages of their spiritual journey:

- Some are seekers.
- Some are stumblers.
- Some are strong believers.

“It makes no difference who you are or where you’re from – if you want God and are ready to do as He says, the door is open.” Acts 10:35 (Msg)

George Herbert: “It’s never too late to be who you might have been.”

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