

What Is Life Really About?

A Sermon Delivered on Wednesday evening, February 9th, 2022, by
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Life is not an accident. There is a purpose and meaning to every life. The meaning of life, according to the Christian faith, is ultimately found in Jesus Christ. In Him, the questions about identity, origin, meaning, purpose, and destiny are answered with profound hope. We are the beloved children of God, created by our heavenly Father to reflect His glory, walk in His love, and do His will in our lives. You see, the key to the Christian life is living out of your born-again spirit instead of your flesh. God has already prepared the good works He has for us, and He did it with the purpose that we walk in them. This message expounds on the true meaning to a fulfilled life by following the examples of believers given in the Bible.

The Christian life is like an Athletic program. After salvation, God sets us on a race of life. So, when we were saved, He said, “this is the direction I want you to live your life”. *“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them”* (Eph. 2:10). This is your goal, “walk in the good works that I set for you” and “be in the race set for you”. *“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God”* (Heb. 12:1-2).

In this race of life, we have encouragers. Being in the race set for us is fulfilling the purpose for which God created us. The Bible is saying, in this race there are encouragers, some pioneers have come, with their good works following them. There is a purpose for which God created every one of us and until a person accomplishes that or is in the process of doing so, he or she will never be living an abundant life. He or she will never be living a life worth living or living a fulfilled life. You may have all the money you want, or all the relationships you want, but you wouldn’t be living the purposeful life that God gave you as a believer if you are not in the race of life set before you. That is, if you are not living in the will of God or seeking to obey Him, you will never find fulfilment. If you don’t walk in the good works that God prepared before the foundation of this earth, you will never be satisfied in life. You will never be able to fill that void with anything in life than walking in the will of God.

We need to walk in the good works that God prepared for us and not to walk away from them. *“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them”* (Eph. 2:10). Now the race of life becomes more personal when we read Hebrews 12:2. *“Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.* It’s not a matter of speed but a matter of being able to last. It’s about being able to run the whole length. In our Christian lives we also have those things that impede and hinder our walk. Anything that hinders our keeping the pace of God is a distraction. It must be laid aside or turned away from. We are to lay aside those things that hinder and distract us in our Christian walk. As we are living in the will of God, anything that hinders or gets our attention and leads us away from the will of God must be dealt with. That can be a habit in our lives. Some sport or even watching TV. Anything which is being over emphasised in our lives must be dealt with. That means, something we give special importance or value to. It may even be doubt or fear, action, attitude, or relationship. Anything that hinders, impede, slows us down or gets us out of the will of God may have to be removed. We have to look in our own lives and say, ‘what is it in my lifestyle that hinders me or keeps me away from focusing on my God given goal, His will or allowing Him to work His way in my life’.

We all have to examine ourselves and lay aside the sin that ensnares us. Sometimes it’s not easy to identify them. We may have some habits in our lives that have been there for years. And we may think, that’s just the way I am, but it may be retarding your spiritual walk. Sometimes it could be just a little doubt that lingers in our lives. We may think does God even care or have a plan for my life. We sometimes make decisions and ask God to bless us, but do we ask the mind of God before we make those decisions? So, there are many areas that we can make them hinder our race and walk with the Lord.

Firstly, we must examine ourselves to see what's hindering us. Secondly, we must decide to deal with them and thank the Lord for showing us those hindrances. It may not even be deliberate or a known willful sin, but acknowledge that it's hindering your walk and therefore, needs to be laid aside. You may be holding on something that's keeping you from the good works that you are supposed to walk in. Whatever it may be, put it aside, walk away from it, turn away from it and make it right between you and God. That's easily said than done, but to do so, we must depend on the Holy Spirit to help us deal with them. Lay aside those things that impede and hinder your progress in walking in the will of God, or His timing and pace. Anything that gets your attention and divert your course is a hindrance. *'The sin that so easily entangles us.'* What does the Bible mean by that? It may be a weakness such as doubt, finances, lust or whatever it might be. Something you keep struggling with, or something you know to be deliberate and willful choices of disobedience to God. We fall into this sin most frequently or most easily.

We must deal with those things if we want to walk in the good works that God prepared for us because they are the things that let us fall away from the track. They are the things that keep us away instead of keeping our eyes on the goal set before us. They are strongholds that need self-discipline to deal with. Nothing in this life is so valuable that we can justify saying no to God. If the Lord has identified something that has become a hindrance to walking in His will, then deal with it and renew your fellowship with the Lord. The worse thing is to distance yourself from the plan of God for your life. When that happens, your security and everything around you begins to unravel. Nothing will be right because God is our guide, protection, peace, and provision. Athletes or runners must keep practising and be self-disciplined to win the race. Being self-disciplined is extremely important to winning a race and it is needed in the Christian life. It requires strong self-discipline on our part to be kept in the race of life.

When you receive the Lord Jesus as your personal saviour, He lives His life through you, but that doesn't mean you don't bring every area of your life under discipline, or under the will, plan, and purposes of God. We must lay these things aside but sometimes it's not that easy to do. We must rely on God and trust in Him. That's why you must stay in the will of God. What does God say about this? How did He work in peoples' lives in the Old Testament? How did God give them victory? How does He work now in peoples' lives? So, there are things that we are to bring under discipline in our lives in order to live fulfilled lives. Now notice Hebrews 12: 2; *"Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God"*. Running with endurance means there will be hardships, trials, difficulties, adversity and suffering. This means we must be steadfast, strong and willing to stand against all kinds of opposition or things that will hinder us in our Christian walk. So, the Bible says let's run with endurance. That means moving in the direction God is leading us no matter what we face.

We are not going to quit because of mountains of obstacles in our way, thinking how will I be able to climb this. Or when the road seems to be deserted and empty, thinking why do I have to walk through this. No, we won't quit. We will not say 'forget it, I give up, I quit' when it becomes so dark that we don't see our way clear. You see, sometimes we find people who used to come to church and serve the Lord but no longer do so, and when you ask them, 'what happened,' they say something wasn't working for me. It's quite ironic because the Christian life works. Rather, we are the ones who don't want to work. We are the ones who want to quit. Surely, there will be difficulties ahead, but we don't have to give up and quit. There is more than enough light to keep us going. Just trust and obey.

Christ is the only saviour of the world. Have you received Him? If not, then please pray this prayer after me, saying every word from your heart...

Dear Lord, I recognise that I am a sinner and need to be saved.

I understand that Jesus died in my place and suffered the judgment of all of my sins.

I believe that Jesus rose from the dead and He is at the right hand of the father.

Lord Jesus, I surrender my Life to you.

Come and Live in my heart and be my Lord and saviour.

Thank You for saving me. Amen!