

19 For God in all his fullness
was pleased to live in Christ,
20 and through him God reconciled
everything to himself.

He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth
by means of Christ's blood on the cross.

21 This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his
enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. 22 Yet
now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his
physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence,
and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single
fault.

23 But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it. Don't
drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good
News.

- 5) Our primary purpose is relationship with God. How does this passage highlight that truth?
- 6) What does this passage say we should do to maintain it? How would doing this benefit us?
- 7) If our primary purpose is connection and relationship to God, what are some secondary purposes in our lives? (Hint: this is the stuff most people think of with regard to purpose.)
- 8) Why are these things secondary to our relationship with God?
- 9) What happens when people seek their secondary purposes without their core purpose being in Jesus?
- 10) What happens when we have our purposes in the right order and are living into them? What happens in the areas we don't particularly like doing?

CHAIR TIME TOOLS

Read the book of Ecclesiastes this week. Once you finish it, think and pray about these questions.

- 1) What does the teacher tell us is meaningless under the sun?
- 2) What does he say is the best thing a person can ultimately do?
- 3) What do you need to shift to live out your purpose wherever you are?

The Pursuit of Better

Purpose

Pastor Tim Layfield | January 28, 2024

Series Thread: The pursuit of perfection isn't possible, but better always is.

A Better Purpose

- **To Reveal God's Glory**

*"For everything comes from him and exists by his power and is **intended for his glory**. All glory to him forever! Amen."*

Romans 11:36 NLT

The Pursuit of a Better Purpose

*"Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?" Jesus replied, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your 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 – 40 NLT***

Two Things Happen:

1. Our heart is aligning to God's heart. **Matthew 22:37-38**
How do we do this?
 - Set down your heart (Sacrifice).
Romans 12:1
 - Pick up the heart of God.
Matthew 16:24-25
2. Others will experience God. **Matthew 22:39**
How does this happen?
 - By the words we speak
 - By the way we respond
 - By the way we love
 - By the way we care
 - By the life we live in front of them
 - By the life we live FOR them

"Our faith is a gift to others."

Challenge:

- What areas of our lives do we need to leave at the altar?
(What do I need to Stop?)
- What part of God's heart do I need to pick up?
(What do I need to Start?)
- How would pursuing God's *better* purpose change the way you live?

For practical, cross-cultural Bible studies related to sermon topics, visit Dougbrittonbooks.com/resources

Life Group Homework

The Pursuit of Better (Purpose)

Winter 2024 | Week 3

Message Date 1/28/2024

MY STORY

- 1) If you could eliminate one thing from your daily routine, what would it be and why?
- 2) Would you rather live in the ocean or on the moon?

QUICK REVIEW

- 3) What caught your attention from Sunday's message?

DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME

This past Sunday Pastor Tim shared with us that our primary purpose is our connection to God and then to others. To simplify this thought, our primary purpose is our relationship to God and our secondary is everything else. Let's take a look at a passage that highlights our primary purpose first.

- 4) What is purpose, and how would you define it?

Colossians 1:15-23 (NLT)

15 Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.
He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation,
16 for through him God created everything
in the heavenly realms and on earth.
He made the things we can see
and the things we can't see—
such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world.
Everything was created through him and for him.
17 He existed before anything else,
and he holds all creation together.
18 Christ is also the head of the church,
which is his body.
He is the beginning,
supreme over all who rise from the dead.
So he is first in everything.