

**Don't Waste Your Life - Live For The Joy Of Pointing Others To The Magnificence Of Christ** - If you would live a blazing life of passion, purpose, joy and glory - in other words, if you would make your life bigger and refuse to waste your life - you must know the purpose of your life in this world. I want to let God tell you, in His own words, His purpose for everything He does creatively and redemptively on this planet:

**Psalm 22:27-28** - "All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you. [28] For kingship belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations."

**Psalm 67:3-4** - "Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! [4] Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. "

**Psalm 96:3 & 10** - "Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!....10....Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns! Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity."

This same divine purpose was restated in the form of the assignment of the church in the words of our Lord:

**Matthew 28:18-20** - "And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. [19] Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'"

Then, earthly history folds itself up in the completion of this purpose at the end of this age:

**Romans 15:20-21** - "...and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation, [21] but as it is written, 'Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand.'"

**Revelation 5:9-10** - "And they sang a new song, saying, 'Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, [10] and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.'"

Now, here's the deal. Because God's Spirit lives and works in your heart and mine, and because the Spirit works to create the mind of Christ in each of us, and because Christ came a long way to rescue sinners like you and me, there is no such thing as a Christian who isn't passionate about reaching the lost as well. In other words, we need to be crystal clear as to what is the Biblical foundation for our commitment to spreading our passion for Christ around the world, whatever the cost. It isn't pictures of starving children. It isn't the fact that 35,000 kids die each day of disease and malnutrition. And it isn't that some preacher or missionary has the capacity to make us feel guilty that we're spending too much money on ourselves, or our North American church is too nice or too fancy.

No, all those approaches are too flimsy to be foundational in our passion, or our *church's* passion for world missions. We are passionate about missions because *we treasure Christ*. We have found Him to be precious beyond telling. And we know that *God* is more passionate about His own glory than anything else in the whole universe. And we know that there are still hundreds of people groups in this world that have no knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. And because we *are* passionate about God's glory covering the *whole* earth, and because that *hasn't* happened yet, *we can't stand it!*

- 1) **MAKE SURE YOUR VISION FOR YOUR OWN LIFE FINDS ITS ROOTS IN THE PURPOSE OF GOD IN THIS WORLD** - If you don't do this, you will waste your life, no matter how successful you become. You are not an evolved monkey. You were created by a purposeful Creator. The trick of not wasting your life is *seeing the centrality of God's purpose in this world before it reaches its maximum fulfillment*:

**Revelation 5:9-10** - "And they sang a new song, saying, 'Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, [10] and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.'"

This is what every Christian in this sanctuary should pray God will keep him or her dreaming about. This throne is the target of every twenty-four hour day, the culmination of every day at the office, every conversation over coffee, the destination of every terminal disease, the comfort of every heartbreak, and the eternal home for all those who embrace Christ Jesus in this life.

- 2) **DON'T ASSUME ALL THE PEOPLE GROUPS OF THIS WORLD HAVE ALREADY BEEN GIVEN TESTIMONY OF JESUS CHRIST** - That is simply untrue. The job is nowhere near completion. There are whole slices of this world's peoples who have *no* witness whatsoever to the saving love of God in Jesus Christ. *Lybia* has six million people and only **10 indigenous Christians**. You heard me right. Only ten. The next time you find yourself complaining that you're the only Christian in your office, remember that the entire Christian church in Lybia could meet in my office!

*Turkey* is a massive Muslim state with one hundred provinces, 85 of which have *no* Christian witness whatsoever. *Saudi Arabia* is this

world's headquarters for Islam. If any Saudi believers are found - and they are few and far between - they are executed. **India** is perhaps the greatest unreached nation on earth in terms of sheer numbers. The number of people in the northern region of **Uttar Pradesh** is about 180,000,000. The percentage of believers in this region is 0.1%, and **falling. North Korea** has had absolutely no open witness to Christ, and no church life whatsoever for over 50 years.

What are you and I going to do about this? If we treasure Christ more than life itself, can we rest while entire people groups don't treasure Jesus anymore than they treasure a cup of flour? Can we rest while the King of Glory isn't worshiped and praised as much as cows or lumps of clay? How are we going to feel the weight of God's call to see His passion fulfilled in these dark nations to turn rebels into worshipers of Jesus Christ, Lord of **all** the earth? These kinds of walls aren't just going to fall down on their own.

- 3) **DON'T DODGE THE CALL OF GOD ON YOUR LIFE - EMBRACE IT!** - While it is certainly true that we aren't all called to leave our full-time jobs to become missionaries, and while it is true that we certainly need to learn how to **make much of Christ from 8 to 5**, that is not the truth we most need reminding of. The truth we need to hear with fresh ears is **missionaries don't come from nowhere. Missionaries come from people like you. Evangelists come from people like you.** If they don't come from people just like you there won't be any. **You are where God gets missionaries.**

I wonder how many people waste much of their life, not because God didn't begin to call their heart into full-time missionary pursuit, but because, when He **did** call, they brushed it aside and didn't **nourish** His summons to their heart. **Learn to cherish divinely given discontent.** Read great missionary biographies. Meditate on and study all the information you can find about people groups who, as of yet, have no access to the gospel message. Learn to hear their cry.

- 4) **BEGIN, RIGHT NOW, TO BE DEATHLY SERIOUS ABOUT MINISTRY FOR CHRIST WHERE YOU ARE, AT HOME - Matthew 28:19-20** - "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

We are not called to make **converts**. We are called to make **disciples**. We are not called just to feed the hungry or clothe the naked. **We are called to multiply disciples - followers of Jesus - people who will die before they will sin - who will lay down their lives to tell others of the Savior.**

We all say we're following Jesus. Well, I know where Jesus went with His one earthly life. You were saved for something specific. You were saved to be a **proclaimer: 1 Peter 2:9** - "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."