



Why am I here?

Chapters 3, 4, & 5

Notes: This Bible Study is intended to be a companion to “The Purpose Driven Life” by Rick Warren. The Scripture references in this Bible study are taken from the New King James Version.

Chapter 3 – What Drives Your Life?

What do you feel most people’s lives are driven by?

Circumstances, values, and emotions drive all people’s lives. I think most people are living life responding to circumstances and being driven by their emotions. Let’s take a look at the most common of these...

What is the problem with being driven by guilt?

Guilt driven people are manipulated by their memories, they become prisoners of their past.

How does God help those who have been driven by guilt?

God forgives all our sins when we are saved...

Colossians 2:13-14 - And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

If God has forgiven us, we should also forgive ourselves and move on.

What is the problem with being driven by resentment and anger?

It will damage your relationships with others including God. Some people clam-up and others blow-up, either way this impacts how you get along with others.

What advice does the Bible have about harboring bitterness?

The Bible makes clear that we should abandon resentment and anger because it only hurts yourself...

Job 5:2 - For wrath kills a foolish man

What is the problem with being driven by fear?

Fear driven people often miss great opportunities.

What counsel does the Bible have to the fearful?

Faith overcomes fear. Courage comes from God...

2 Timothy 1:7 - For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Love is more powerful than fear, when we are fearful it is helpful to focus on God’s love...

1 John 4:18 - There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

What misconceptions do people have who are driven by materialism?

People driven by materialism have the misconception that having more will make them happy, more important, or more secure.

How do people find real security?

Real security may only be found in that which will never be taken from you, your relationship with God...

John 10:28 - I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

What happens to people driven by the need for approval?

Those who follow the crowd usually get lost in it. One key to failure is to try to please everyone. This will also ensure that you’ll miss God’s purposes for your life...

Matthew 6:24 - No one can serve two masters

Why is it important to have a purpose in life?

Without a purpose, life is motion without meaning, activity without direction, and events without reason. Life is trivial, petty and pointless.

What are 5 great benefits of a purpose driven life?

There are five great benefits to a purpose driven life:

1. It gives meaning to your life
2. It simplifies your life
3. It focuses your life
4. It motivates your life
5. It prepares you for eternity

Why is it important to have meaning in your life?

Without meaning, there is no hope. You need hope to cope with the difficulties of life in the here and now...

Jeremiah 29:11 - For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

How can knowing your purpose simplify your life?

If you don't know your purpose, you have no reason to avoid taking on things God did not intend for you to do causing frustration, stress, fatigue, and conflict.

How can knowing your purpose bring focus to your life?

Without a clear purpose, you'll lack contentment and keep changing directions, jobs, relationships, churches or other external things in your life. Each time you think this time will be different but it is a vicious cycle. These externals are only symptoms of the root cause of your problems: not having the focus that comes with a purpose.

How is it motivating to know your purpose in life?

Nothing dampens motivation like meaningless work. Purpose produces passion because you can see that you are being effective.

How does knowing your purpose prepare you for eternity?

Acting in accord with God's purpose for you is ultimately what matters the most. Life in this world is a foreshadowing of our life in eternity with God. God's purpose for us does not end with this life.

Psalm 33:11 - The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of His heart to all generations.

The more we live up to the purpose God established for us, the more responsibility we'll have in eternity (see the parable of the talents – Matthew 25).

What do you think your family and friends would say is the driving force of your life?

Some may view my job or adventure trips or desire to live and build homes in the desert is the driving force in my life. Some who know me better will know that helping people appreciate the Bible is a driving force in my life. I certainly want people to see that my relationship with Jesus is the driving force in my life.

Chapter 4 – Made to Last Forever

How do we know that this life is not all there is?

Jesus has proven that this is the case and the Bible testifies of that this life is not all there is. In addition to that, all people have an inborn instinct that longs for eternity...

Ecclesiastes 3:11 - He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts

This is part of our being in the image of God, we will live into eternity future as God Himself will.

How should it change us knowing that life is more than the here and now?

Living with an eternal perspective should effect how you handle every relationship, task and circumstance. It changes

your priorities. Your world view and values change, you will use your money and time more wisely. The closer you live to God, the smaller everything else appears. You place a higher premium on relationships and character than fame, wealth achievements or even fun...

Philippians 3:7 - But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.

What is it going to be like in eternity with God?

Words can not express the wonder and greatness of being with God in heaven...

1 Corinthians 2:9 - But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

Why shouldn't Christians fear death?

If we have a relationship with God through Jesus, death is merely a transition to eternity with Him. Death will be a birthday to eternity for us...

Hebrews 13:14 - For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come.

Since You were made to last forever, what is the one thing I should stop doing and the one thing I should start doing today?

I should stop watching so much TV and I need to spend more time learning God's Word.

Chapter 5 – Seeing Life from God's View

The way you see your life shapes your life... What do the following metaphors on life tell you about what life is like?

Carousel – sometimes you're up, sometimes you're down, sometimes you just go round and round

A ten-speed bike – with gears we never use.

A game of cards – you play with the hand your dealt

A party – our objective in life is just to have fun

A race – we value speed

A marathon – we value endurance

A battle – we have conflicts and winning is important

What three metaphors does the Bible teach us that is God's view of life?

Life is a test, a trust, and a temporary assignment.

How is it that life is a test?

God puts us through trials intended to develop our character:

Romans 5:3-4 - tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope.

God is continually testing us making note of our response to people, problems, success, conflict, illness, disappointment, and even the weather.

Are we aware of all the tests we have in life?

No, while some tests are overwhelming, others we don't even notice but nothing is insignificant, all have eternal consequences.

How does God want you to do on your tests in life?

God wants us to pass all of them. He gives us sufficient grace to handle them...

1 Corinthians 10:13 - No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

What are the benefits of passing our tests?

We will receive eternal rewards for the tests we pass...

James 1:12 - Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

Why isn't the life-is-a-test metaphor salvation-by-works?

The biggest test is receiving Christ as Savior, this is the prerequisite for receiving any awards in heaven.

What are the consequences for failing our tests?

We suffer loss of reward... Note that losing rewards does not mean you will lose salvation.

1 Corinthians 3:13-15 - each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

How is our life on earth like a trust?**What is a trust?**

A trust is something given to us to use on another's behalf. Our time on earth, energy, intelligence, opportunities, relationships, and resources are all gifts from God entrusted to us for our care and management. We are stewards of what God gives us.

To be a proper steward, what must we first recognize?

We must recognize that God owns all of creation...

Psalms 24:1 - The earth is the LORD'S, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein.

What is the world's attitude toward things you don't own such as rental cars or property?

Our society thinks that it is not your responsibility to take care of something you don't own.

How does the world's perspective of stewardship differ from the Christian view?

The Christian knows that since God owns something, that I must take the best care of it that I can...

1 Corinthians 4:2 - Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.

What are the benefits for being a good steward of what God has entrusted us?

We will receive God's affirmation...

Matthew 25:21 - Well done, good and faithful servant

We will receive a promotion that includes greater responsibility in eternity...

Matthew 25:21 - I will make you ruler over many things.

We will be honored with a celebration...

Matthew 25:21 - Enter into the joy of your lord.

How is money both a test and a trust?

God uses finances to teach us to trust Him, thus it is also a test. God watches what we do with the money He entrusts to us to see how trustworthy we are. So how we handle money has eternal ramifications...

Luke 16:11 - Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, how will you commit to your trust the true riches?

What does God expect from those He has entrusted with resources, abilities, and opportunities in this world?

He expects us to use them for His purposes. Also, the more God gives us, the more He expects from us...

Luke 12:48 - For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.

What has happened to you recently that you recognize as a test from God?

One Saturday morning in April I was doing something on the computer that just didn't work out well. I had computer problems that resulted in a very unproductive time. I realized that I should have been working on my Bible studies instead.

What are the greatest matters God has entrusted to me?

The greatest trust God has given me is my relationship with Him and with Teresa. My opportunity to be a Sunday School teacher at BBBC follows close behind.

How do you see your life? What metaphor best describes your life, a race, circus, or something else?

An endurance marathon has been too much of a metaphor for my life. I have also thought of my life as a comfortable, rammed earth house in the desert... solid, energy efficient and quiet made from common but quality materials. Since I've been growing in Christ, I am seeing my life as a test, a trust, and a temporary assignment.