



Why am I here?

Chapters 6 & 7

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 6 – Life Is a Temporary Assignment

How is life on earth a temporary assignment?

Compared to eternity, a lifetime in this world is nothing but a wisp of smoke, it doesn’t stick around very long...

James 4:14 - For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.

Knowing that we will be in this world but a short time, what should our attitude be about it?

We should not get too attached to the things of this world.

I John 2:15 - Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

As David prayed...

Psalms 39:4 - LORD, make me to know my end, and what is the measure of my days, that I may know how frail I am.

Why should we ask the Lord to help us stay mindful of how short our life is?

We need to stay mindful of how short our life is so that we will not put off doing things of eternal value.

If we are not to become too attached to the world due to its brevity, what should we be attached to?

We should recognize that our home is really heaven where God is. Jesus said that His followers were in the world but not of the world...

John 17:14 - I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

David recognized that he was not at home in this world...

Psalms 119:19 - I am a stranger in the earth

The writer of Hebrews called us “*strangers and pilgrims on the earth*” (Hebrews 11:13)... Peter called us “*sojourners and pilgrims*” (1 Peter 2:11).

If you were asked by our government to be an ambassador to an unfriendly nation, what would you do to accomplish your mission?

You may have to learn the language and adapt to some cultural differences to be effective in your mission. To be successful, you’d have to make contact and relate to those to whom you are assigned.

What would happen if you got so friendly with your foreign assignment that you began to prefer it to your home country?

At this point, your role of ambassador would be compromised. Instead of representing your home country, you’d start acting in the interests of an enemy, you’d be a traitor.

The Bible refers to us as “ambassadors for Christ” (2 Corinthians 5:20), how is this a good analogy for our missions here?

As Paul said, “*our citizenship is in heaven*” (Philippians 3:20)... We represent the King (Jesus) of our home country (heaven) to the world. We are here to serve the interests of the King and not that of the world to which we’ve been assigned.

What threatens our success as ambassadors for Christ in this world?

This world holds powerful distractions... with all the fascinating attractions, mesmerizing media, and enjoyable experiences, it is easy to forget that the pursuit of happiness is not what life is really all about.

How does the fact that this world is not our ultimate home explain why we experience difficulty, rejection, and God’s promises seem to go unfulfilled?

God allows these difficulties to come into our life so that we will not become too attached to this world. Our longings will not be fulfilled this side of eternity.

John 15:18-19 - If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

How should realizing that life in this world is a temporary assignment alter our values?

We should come to value that which is eternal over that which is temporal. As C. S. Lewis said, “All that is not eternal is eternally useless.”

2 Corinthians 4:18 - while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For

the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Jesus promised His followers an abundant life (John 10:10). Does that mean that we will be materially prosperous?

The Abundant life has nothing to do with material abundance. The abundant life has more to do with the length, breadth, and depth of life (how long, how diverse, how satisfying). God does not see the greatest heroes of the faith as being those who have prosperity, success or power in this life, but those who view their life as a temporary assignment and serve looking forward to their reward in eternity. Regarding God's Hall of Fame:

Hebrews 11:13, 16 - These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth... But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

What did God tell the retiring missionary who returned to the U.S. on the same ship as president was on when he complained about not getting any reception for himself?

God told him he wasn't home yet. Likewise, we should remember that at death we don't leave home, we go home.

How should the fact that life on earth is just a temporary assignment change the way I am living right now?

I need to spend less time in front of the TV and more time in prayer, studying God's Word, and doing things to engage others in a discussion about spiritual matters. I need to structure my life so that I can be more of an agent to see more people exposed to the gospel.

Chapter 7 – The Reason for Everything

What does Romans 11:36 have to say about the objective of God's creation?

Romans 11:36 - For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever.

The ultimate goal of the universe is to show the glory of God.

What is the glory of God?

The glory of God is who He is, His nature, importance, splendor, power, goodness, grace, and all His other qualities.

Where do we see the glory of God?

We see the glory of God reflected in His creation...

Romans 1:20 - For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made

Psalms 19:1 - The heavens declare the glory of God

Where do we best see God's glory?

God's glory may best be seen in Jesus Christ...

2 Corinthians 4:6 - For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

John 1:14 - And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

How can we add to the glory of God?

This is a trick question, we can do nothing to add to God's glory. This would be like our being able to make the sun shine brighter. What we can do is obey the commands to *recognize* His glory, *honor* His glory, *declare* His glory, *praise* His glory, *reflect* His glory, and *live for* His glory.

In the modern volunteer Army, my leadership training conditioned me to give the reason why a command was being given. So why are we commanded to give honor to God's glory?

We should honor God's glory because He deserves it! Since God made all things, He deserves all the glory...

Revelation 4:11 - You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created.

What are we doing if we refuse to honor God's glory?

Not honoring God's glory is prideful rebellion, sin. We have all to some extent lived to our own glory instead of God's...

Romans 3:23 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

How may we honor God's glory?

By fulfilling the purpose God intended for us. This is what Jesus did in His mission to earth and it is an example for us to do the same...

John 17:4 - I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.

What are the five basic purposes God has for us?

The five basic purposes God has for us is worshiping Him, loving other believers, becoming like Christ, serving others with our gifts, and telling others about the Lord.

What is the best way to worship God... should our worship be motivated by love or duty?

As C.S. Lewis said, "In commanding us to glorify Him, God is inviting us to enjoy Him." God wants our worship to be motivated by love, thanksgiving and delight, not duty.

What kinds of activities constitute worship?

Worship is far more than praising, singing and praying to God. Worship is doing what pleases God with an attitude that pleases Him. Thus your entire life can be an act of worship if you are fulfilling the purposes for which you are intended.

What does loving one-another prove?

It proves that we are truly saved, that we are indeed children of God...

I John 3:14 - We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.

John 13:35 - By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

What is the most basic way of showing the world that we love one another?

We take time to be together in church. If you love each other, you take time to be together.

What does spiritual maturity look like?

Spiritual maturity is being like Christ in the way we think feel and act...

2 Corinthians 3:18 - But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

How are each of us unique in the way we serve others?

God has endowed each of us with a unique gift that He intends us to use in service to others...

1 Peter 4:10 - As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

What does God expect us to do with the truth He has revealed to us?

God expects us to glorify Him by sharing the truth He has revealed to us with others...

2 Corinthians 4:15 - For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.

What is the choice we must all make about who we will live for?

We must all settle the issue: are we going to live for God or for ourselves? The consequence of living for yourselves is that you will end up losing your life in the end...

John 12:25 - He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

What is the result of yielding your life to the Lord and living for Him?

This is eternal life, becoming part of God's family forever...

John 1:12 - But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name

John 3:36 - He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.

Where in my daily routine can I become more aware of God's glory?

I can learn more of God's glory in His helping me in the conduct of my job. I need to see my job as more of a calling. I am fulfilling part of God's purpose for me by being a good employee. With God's help, I can be a better employee.

If everyone understood that life on earth was really preparation for eternity, how would we act differently?

If everyone embraced the temporary assignment truth, I would be bolder in speaking up about spiritual matters. I would be less afraid of rejection because people should be more receptive to the gospel.

What do people get attached to on earth that keeps them from living for God's purposes?

People get attached to things that take the place of God... money, health, people, places, governments, etc.

What have you been attached to that could keep you from living for God's purposes?

I have grown attached to my comfortable life style and the pleasures in life that come from a good job. I recognize that my good job is where God wants me to be but the test for me is that I'll grow complacent about my calling to serve God.