



Having a Purpose

Scott Huckaby's Toastmaster CTM #9

CTM #9 – Persuade with Power – Objectives:

- To present a talk that persuades the audience to accept your proposal or viewpoint.
- To achieve this persuasive effect by appealing to the audience's self-interest, building a logical foundation for agreement, and arousing emotional commitment for your cause.
- Time: five to seven minutes

Mr. Toastmaster, ladies and gentlemen...

Do you know why you're here? I'm not talking about why you are here at this Toastmaster's meeting, I'm talking about what your purpose is in life. All people wonder about this at some point in their lives.

Of course the conventional wisdom is that life has no purpose. If evolution is true and we are the product of blind, random natural processes then life can have no purpose. But deep down in their heart of hearts, all people know this rationalization is false and there has to be a purpose for our being here.

The Bible tells us why we are here. It says we are here to prepare for eternity. The Bible describes life as a test to show who will enter into an eternal, personal relationship with their Creator and who will not.

I realize that before you can accept the message of the Bible, you need to see it as truly being from God. So my purpose in the next five minutes or so is to help you to better appreciate the supernatural nature of the Bible.

What a person thinks of the Bible really comes down to what they think of God. If God is just some impersonal force that set everything in motion and kicked back to watch what happens, then the Bible is merely a record of man's search for God.

On the other hand, if God is truly Almighty and desires a personal relationship with each of us as He claims, then the Bible is the world's premier source of truth. And this includes the prophecies that make up 25% of the Bible...

2 Peter 1:21 says, *"for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."* And we know from Hebrews 6:18 that, *"it is impossible for God to lie."*

God foretells the future in the Bible with 100% accuracy because He is outside the confines of time... He said in Isaiah 46:9-10 - *Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure.'*

How many of you have seen the movie, *The Passion of the Christ*? You should see it, this movie shows in graphic detail what happened but it could have done a better time explaining why it happened: God, in the Person of Jesus Christ came into our world to pay the penalty for the sins of those who trust in Him.

Crucifixion was invented by the Persians used by the Greeks but perfected by the Romans. 500 years before crucifixion was even invented, King David of Israel was inspired by the Holy Spirit to write about how the coming Messiah would die...

Psalm 22:14-18 says, *"I am poured out like water, and all My bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it has melted within Me. My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and My tongue clings to My jaws; you have brought Me to the dust of death. For dogs have surrounded Me; the congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet; I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me. They divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots."*

This prophecy was fulfilled a thousand years later when Jesus died on the cross. In fact, all the details were literally fulfilled... Matthew 27:35 says, *"Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots."*

Psalm 16:10 prophesied that the Messiah would be resurrected from the dead, *"For You will not leave my*

soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.” And indeed that is what happened. Matthew 28:6 comments on the empty tomb of Jesus saying, *“He is not here; for He is risen.”*

There are many other prophecies about the Messiah such as the fact that He would be miraculously born of a virgin, where He would be born, and what His genealogy would be. All the Messianic prophecies were fulfilled in Jesus.

Now some have dismissed prophecies as having been fulfilled by rationalizing that over time people changed Scripture to what they wanted it to say. But this ignores the fact that the Hebrew scribes regarded Scripture as sacred and destroyed a scroll if even one transcription error was found.

If you are not convinced of the supernatural nature of the Bible from the prophecies that have been fulfilled, maybe those that are being fulfilled in our lifetime will change your mind. This is what convinced me.

At the end of 1989, the Soviet Union allowed the Berlin Wall to be dismantled. This event amazed and mystified me because I expected the nuclear stand-off between the U.S. and the Soviets to go on indefinitely.

But a book my father-in-law had given me on Bible prophecy helped me to understand why the Soviet Union had to fall. The Bible says that when the Messiah returns, the world will be united under one government. It became clear to me that the super-power stand-off had to dissolve for this to take place.

Then it hit me, if the Bible could help me understand why current events happened the way they did, then it also had to be right about the need for Jesus Christ in my life. It was like a light going on in my head. I knew at that instant my life would be forever changed. I immediately started digging into what else the Bible had to say about God’s purpose and plan for us.

In the course of my investigation, I discovered even more evidence that Bible prophecies are being fulfilled in our day. The most significant of these involve the nation of Israel. The Bible has many prophecies that Israel will return to their homeland in the time-frame prior to the return of the Messiah. For example Ezekiel 36:24 says, *“I will take you from among the nations,*

gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land.” This is pretty incredible when you consider that Israel ceased to be a nation in 70 A.D. being dispersed throughout the nations of the world then became a nation again in 1948.

In the 1800+ years of the Hebrew Diaspora, the language of the Jews had all disappeared from common use. But the 20th Century has seen a restoration of the Hebrew language as prophesied in Zephaniah 3:9 which says, *“For then I will restore to the peoples a pure language.”* This is unprecedented in history, lost languages do not just re-emerge.

And look at the prophecy in Zechariah 12:3: *“it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all peoples.”* Jerusalem is always in the news because it is the original epicenter of the world war on terrorism and the most difficult nut to crack in terms of world peace. The conventional wisdom is that if mankind can bring peace to the Mid-East, there is nothing preventing peace worldwide.

Zechariah 12:5 prophecies that in the time-frame prior to the return of the Messiah, Israel would be governed by a democracy. Today, they are the only true democracy in the Mid-East. The jury is still out on Iraq. Zechariah 12:6 says that in the time-frame prior to the return of the Messiah, Israel would be victorious in battle against all countries coming against them. We have seen this in every war they’ve had since 1948.

There are also prophecies being fulfilled today in society, technology, world religions, and world politics. I’m out of time so you’ll have to ask me about this later.

Well, I hope that you can now better appreciate why millions of people worldwide hold the Bible in such high esteem. I’d encourage you to check these things out for yourself. And open yourself up to the message of the Bible. I guarantee that knowing you’re here to prepare for eternity will change your life for the better.

Mr. Toastmaster...