

L8 | "What is My Purpose?" | Eph. 1:7-12

I. Intro/Review:

- What is my purpose? - That which a person sets before himself as an object to be reached or accomplished; the end or aim to which the view is directed in any plan, measure or exertion.
 - Some don't have one - some do
 - Examine the dialogue throughout the ages about this question and you will find an spectrum of answers.
 - Answers that will contradict each other
 - Numerous questions and declarations that don't get to the heart of the matter are asked and given:
 - Declarations and instruction like
 - If you're not growing your dying
 - If you don't grow you'll feel pain, fear, and anxiety
 - Search inward
 - Focus on what you have
 - Progress is happiness
 - Take ownership of your life
 - Find your community
 - Questions like
 - What brings you joy?
 - What is your life vision?
 - What are your true needs?
 - Do you take time for yourself?
- With the sea of the world and every wind of doctrine the answer to this question isn't conclusive, but speculative - isn't concrete, but moveable that easily toss to and fro those willing to ride out the storm to their death and also drown those that are unwilling to be victim of this course, but have no salvation.
 - The world does not know at what they stumble
 - (Pro. 4:19 - "The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble.")
 - With the wisdom of the world, its darkness, and corresponding works of darkness they will never be able to answer this questions according to truth.
 - Their or what they call "my truth" is idolatry - a stealing and robbing of God and worshiping of one's own heart - thus self becomes the object of ones-self.
- The apostle Paul was continually confronted with the idealogues of his day upon which most theories and philosophies we have today come from.

- Purpose was a topic in which they grappled with and covered

II. Preview:

- Definition
 - Purpose and purposes
 - The purpose of the heart
 - The wisdom of the world and philosophy
- Greater Context
 - Problem
 - Purposes
 - The wisdom of God in Christ
 - Purposes

III. Sermon:

- Definition
 - Purpose and purposes
 - The purpose of the heart
 - The wisdom of the world (1 Cor. 1:20; Rom. 1 & 12)
 - Philosophy - love of wisdom (not some ideas that have no bearing upon your life, but how to think and thus live)
 - **"and vain deceit"** - this is what the philosophy is (empty and meaningless and that which is a lie and misleading)
 - "after the tradition of men" - comes from man (inferior)
 - "after the rudiments of the world" - comes from the world (inferior)
 - **"not after Christ"**
 - Not merely a man
 - From heaven
 - **Philosophy Examples**
 - Acts 17:18
 - **Epicureans** - The Epicureans, named after their founder Epicurus (who lived in 341-270 B.C.), they believed the chief end of living was pleasure. They believed in numerous gods who had no influence over the affairs of man and did not believe in the immortality of the soul.
 - Paul's audience was very hard to preach to, the Epicureans believed everything evolved they did not have a concept of creation. The Epicureans believed that the world was made accidentally by atoms which have been in perpetual motion from the beginning had brought this form. Aristotle's

school held "that the world was from eternity, and everything always was from eternity, and everything always was what now it is" (from Matthew Henry's Commentary).

- Purpose was pleasure - increase of pleasure and decrease of suffering
 - Hedonism
 - **Stoics** - Philosophy for a Stoic is not just a set of beliefs or ethical claims, it is a way of life involving constant practice and training. Stoic philosophical and spiritual practices included logic, Socratic dialogue and self-dialogue, contemplation of death, training attention to remain in the present moment, daily reflection on everyday problems and possible solutions. Philosophy for a Stoic is an active process of constant practice and self-reminder.
 - The Stoics, founded by Zeno (c. 300 B.C.), believed that God was the world's soul which indwelt all things, God was in all men, all men were brothers. That living in harmony with nature brought happiness. Many Stoics were men of high moral principle, and that human affairs were governed by fate.
 - Ethical life according to nature
 - **Humanism** - starting point of potential and purpose is within yourself
- **Greater Context**
 - **Problem**
 - Purpose to everything
 - Ecc. 8:6 - "Because to every purpose there is time and judgment, therefore the misery of man is great upon him."
 - There is purpose and men are able to discern
 - Purposes
 - Purposes
 - **Ecc. 3:1** - "to every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:"
 - Ways of man, purposes under heaven
 - What determines your purpose?
 - **Pro. 20:18** - "Every purpose is established by counsel:"
 - **Job 17:11** - "My days are past, my purposes are broken off, even the thoughts of my heart."

- The thoughts and intents of the heart
- **Dan. 1:8** - "But Daniel purposed in his heart"
- **Ps. 17:3** - "Thou hast proved mine heart...I am purposed that my mouth shall not transgress."
- **1 Cor. 7:37** - "...standeth stedfast in his heart...hath power over his own will...so decreed in his heart.."
- **2 Cor. 9:7** - "every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give..."
- Problem of our Purposes
 - **Pro. 6:18** - "an heart that deviseth wicked imaginations,"
 - **Pro. 21:4** - "...and a proud heart...is sin."
 - **Ps. 10:3** - "For the wicked boasteth of his heart's desire, and blesseth the covetous, whom the LORD abhorreth."
 - **Jer. 17:9** - "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"
 - Deceitful heart imagines deceitful wisdom for its heart to serve the heart and its wickedness.
 - **Pro. 18:2** - "a fool hath no delight in understanding, but that his heart may discover itself."
 - The heart is given by God for God, to discover God, to gain an understanding of God.
 - Rom. 1:21; Eph. 4:17; Jn. 3
- Man's purpose and purposes are governed
 - Their own heart,
 - Under heaven,
 - And death
- 1 Jn. 3:8 - the Son of God manifested to destroy the works of the devil
 - Heb. 2
- **The Wisdom of God in Christ** - 2 Tim. 1:9
 - Eph. 1
 - Col. 2
 - 1 Cor. 1 & 2
- **Purposes in Christ**
 - Work together with God's purpose in Christ (Rom. 8:28)
 - Php. 4 - contentment
 - 1 Tim. 6 - godliness with contentment is great gain

- Masters and servants
- Eph. 5 - husbands - wives
- 1 Tim. 2 - all in authority

IV. Conclusion: