

Weekly Study of Sunday's Message.

June 25, 2023 "Undistracted" by Bob Goff. Recapturing your purpose and rediscovering your joy. What does it look like to live undistracted?

I Intro.

Happy summer. Even though some of our regular activities are slowing down we still have things you're going to want to participate in. By now you've seen the appeal to address some building and financial needs we're having to fix. We hope you are fed and ministered to by NCC, and that you can be an essential part of us moving forward. We have many ways you can plug into life at NCC. You can find all those through our website, app, and social media sites. Our app is the best way to livestream our services, but you can also livestream on FaceBook and YouTube. You can revisit past services, sign up for events and even give. We're encouraged by your presence when you gather with us. New and familiar faces join us every Sunday. If you join us online, we appreciate your presence. We are 100% committed to our virtual attenders. We are your church family, and if there is anything you need, prayer, or anything else, please let us know. This is our weekly devotional that gives you some specific things to work through from Sunday's message. Whether you were able to participate in this service or not, this devotion is free-standing. You can use it to help you dig deeper into your own spiritual walk. We hope you find this tool helpful on your spiritual journey.

II Recap.

We started our annual summer tradition of a book-book in June. The book we're using is "**Undistracted**" by Bob Goff. Bob is such a fascinating and inspiring person. I would love to go into detail here, but just Google his name and do a little dive into who he is. You'll be as impressed and inspired by Bob as I have been over the years.

The basic premise of "**Undistracted**" is that within our skills, passions, talents is a God-given purpose for us that can give our lives meaning and fulfillment. The primary problem in finding this purpose is that we become so...you guessed it...distracted. Bob, in his own way, walks us through some truths, wisdom, and practices that can help us become aware of our own personal distractions, do the work of managing or overcoming them, so we can find our own purpose.

This message is for all of us, at any age. This is NOT a series on; how to pick your career or life path. This series will help us live a more focused and intentionally purposeful life, in order to experience the joy God wants for us. We've talked about distractions, a formula towards purpose, handling questions, doubts, and failures. Today we wrap this series up with the foundation for purpose.

III Sunday.

We finished this series Sunday with a look at what is at the core of living a life of purpose. We can do all the things that lead to a life of purpose, but there has to be a foundation, framework, of who we are to be, to make it work. When we can build a strong foundation, the work we do to find our purpose will have something solid to rest on and be kinder. This may not 'feel' connected to finding our purpose, but it helps guide us as we do the work of finding our purpose. As always a couple of questions first.

Have you ever felt like you were doing what you were created to do? What was it?

What feelings did you have while you were doing it?

A word about how to read scripture responsibly before we go through our specific passage. As we mentioned before, scripture is not a law or rule book. You can't just ask specific questions and then

look up passages that answer all of our questions. Now scripture will give us some really strong principles and truths, if we put into practice, will grow our relationship with God and our spiritual maturity. Scripture is a recording of people's encounter with God over thousands of years. Truths they learned and applied in their lives. And we read it through that understanding, as we interpret passages in the writer's context, and then what that would look like following the values and truths in our own life. Which brings the second point, and that is; the bible was never intended to be a clobber book letting other people know how much they're messing up. It is for us to use personally, and in community, to help us apply the truth and principles in our own lives. All of that to say, our passage for today needs to be read in this understanding.

We'll break the passage down into two sections. Read **Colossians 3:1-11** first and we'll talk about it.

What jumped out to you about this passage?

Where did you have to fight the natural urge to think of other people when specific behaviors were listed?

Where did the passage speak to you directly?

As I mentioned, this passage is for us to do an inventory to see where there might be some behaviors that are inhibiting us from finding and experiencing our purpose. This passage should have cast a big enough net that all of us were called out by this list. We are to understand and read these in context, and to let the Holy Spirit do the work within us to help remove these behaviors from us. The words around this list sound harsh and condemning. Know that God doesn't mention these behaviors because they disgust him. God has seen a lot more than you can throw at him. God mentioned these because they represent a sample of what he wants to save us from things that can be barriers that keep us from experiencing the fullness of life.

What would be a way for you to rewrite this passage that retains the original idea, but can specifically speak into your life?

Now read the second part of this passage with this understanding. These behaviors and traits are to be what other people experience when they experience you. So, read **Colossians 3:12-17**.

What jumped out to you about this passage?

Which behaviors are a struggle for you?

What are some things you could do to grow those traits within you?

This list is how other people should experience us. No matter what situation we find ourselves in, no matter what we're dealing with, no matter what we're having to face, people around us ought to experience these things from us. It's these specific behaviors and traits that set us apart from people who don't know God. So, these are us...they reflect the nature of God. and make purpose powerful.

What would be a way for you to rewrite this passage that retains the original idea, but can specifically speak into your life?

IV Challenge.

There's not a lot more to say in wrapping this series up. God wants us to live this amazing life of meaning and purpose. That brings joy and delight. And living in our purpose will do that. So, do the work, make the effort, take risks, and find what God has created you to do. Once you do, nothing else will fill your life like that will. The **"Undistracted"** life.