

**Purpose or Popularity**

Kris Brenes

The choices you make and the steps you take today will determine the *you in five years*.

Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom. Ps 90:12 NLT

**Choose purpose over popularity.****Living for the approval of people keeps you from the purposes of God.**

By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. <sup>25</sup>He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. <sup>26</sup>He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. Hebrews 11:24-26

**The power of purpose****▪ Purpose diminishes distractions.**

And I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?" Nehemiah 6:3 ESV

**▪ Purpose pushes you through the pain.**

He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. Hebrews 11:25

**▪ Purpose empowers you to please God.**

Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than human beings! Acts 5:19

**Connect**

Would you consider yourself a "people pleaser"? Why or why not?

**Word and Reflection**

We all have goals, plans, hopes and dreams for our future. Who we become in five years and beyond will be determined by the choices we make and the steps we take today. One intentional choice you can make today is to choose purpose over popularity. There is power in living a life of purpose, focused on pursuing and pleasing God. Purpose diminishes distractions, pushes us through the pain and empowers us to please God.

Psalms 90:12; Hebrews 11:24-26; Nehemiah 6:2-4

- Which part of the message made an impact, caught your attention or challenged you?
- Read Psalm 90:12. How does this verse challenge you to live with focused purpose instead of for the approval of others?
- Read Hebrews 11:24-26. What might this kind of determination seen in Moses look like in today's culture and modern-day circumstances?
- Read Nehemiah 6:2-4. To what distraction do you need to say, "I'm doing a great work and I cannot come down"?
- Was there a specific part of the message when you sensed God speaking to you? What was it? What step will you take this week to act on what God is asking you to do?

**Moving forward**

- Participate in this week of prayer and fasting. Spend time in prayer seeking God, asking him to reveal to you intentional steps towards His purpose for you.
- Look for small ways to obey God and be used by Him this week – pray for someone, encourage someone, meet a need.

**Prayer**

- Use the prayer and fasting guide as you pray this week.
- Join us at one of our corporate prayer gatherings this week (Tuesday & Wednesday @ 6:30pm at the church office; Thursday @ 6:30pm at Kahala Elem; Rm. E-30; Friday @ 7:30pm at Kahala Elem, Rm E-30.)