

## HOW PURPOSEFUL IS YOUR LIFE?

### *Note to the speaker:*

Help audience to appreciate that a purposeful life comes only from having an intimate relationship with Jehovah and living in harmony with his purpose to gather all things together again in the Christ. Make clear how one can achieve this relationship with Jehovah, and encourage all to exert themselves in the most purposeful work in the world, preaching the good news of God's Kingdom

### **WHY ARE WE HERE?** (8 min.)

The life-style of many indicates they lack purpose in life; they are preoccupied with money, recreation, sports, sex, and so on

They seldom think beyond the immediate future

Others caught up in making a living, struggling to eke out a day-to-day existence; they often feel they are on a treadmill

Failing to understand why we are here induces some to live lives of reckless abandon, casting restraint to the wind

Serious people wonder what real purpose in life is. Is it simply to go through a cycle much like the animals, to be born, eat, work, have offspring, grow old, and die, or is there a more noble reason for our existence?

All things brought into existence for some reason. Intelligent humans build, manufacture items for purposeful uses (Heb 3:4)

Through his Word, God tells us the purpose of life

He knows why he put us on earth, and he designed us in harmony with his will (*pe* 73-4)

Getting to know his purpose in creating us is essential if we are to bring our lives into harmony therewith (*lp* 183-4)

Appreciating why we are here elevates us from mere existence to noble, worthwhile life (*g89* 2/8 26-7; *g87* 1/22 10-12)

### **GOD HELPS THOSE WHO KNOW HIM TO LEAD PURPOSEFUL LIVES** (17 min.)

Accurate knowledge of and cooperation with God helps one to have a meaningful life and hope for the future (Joh 17:3)

Though invisible, God invites us to seek to know him (Ro 1:19, 20; Ac 17:26, 27)

God helps us to know him personally by revealing his name

For some, learning name has been first step toward leading purposeful life (*g88* 8/22 21-5; *g86* 7/22 17-20)

Name means "He causes to become"; it identifies Jehovah as the Purposer (Ge 2:4, ftn.; *it*-2 12; *kc* 17-18)

Regular use of name builds intimacy with him

Getting to know the outstanding qualities of God helps us to lead purposeful lives

God not omnipresent but resides in a specific location (1Ki 8:49; Heb 9:24)

His eyes examine the sons of men (Ps 11:4; Pr 15:3)

His cardinal attributes are love, wisdom, power, and justice (Relate briefly how learning these qualities of God has helped many to lead more purposeful lives. See, for example, *w89* 1/15 24; *w88* 7/1 18-22)

To know him is to love and appreciate him and his qualities (Ex 34:6, 7)

God helps those who know him to lead purposeful lives by communicating with them and by listening to their prayers

He provides direction through his written Word along with help of holy spirit to understand it

Spirit helps to search "even the deep things of God," including his purpose for man (1Co 2:10)

Provisions made for needed counsel through elders, congregation meetings, assemblies, publications

He promises to safeguard their hearts and mental powers if they make their petitions known to him (Php 4:6, 7) (Example: *w88* 3/15 6-7)

Greek word rendered "mental powers" has the thought of "purpose" or "device." Thus, God's peace can strengthen our Christian purpose (*w88* 2/15 18)

Obvious that Jehovah helps honesthearted ones to come into a relationship with him and lead purposeful lives (Joh 6:44; *w79* 4/15 14)

He is interested in each individual personally and especially in those sincerely inquiring as to his purpose (1Ti 2:4; *lp* 108-11)

He gives us incentive to direct our lives in a way that pleases him

### **BASIS FOR GAINING MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD** (13 min.)

As Creator, God has a certain relationship with all people (Ac 17:25, 28)

To fulfill real purpose in life, we need a meaningful, intimate relationship with God (*w79* 4/15 12-16)

Human sinfulness would make a relationship with God impossible if he had not laid basis for it through Christ's death and resurrection (Ro 5:8; 1Pe 2:24)

God himself made first move to make relationship with him possible, but that does not result in automatic intimacy with him

Specific steps are required on our part to gain a close bond with Jehovah as well as a purposeful life

- (1) Must put forth effort to take in *accurate knowledge* that will build faith. (Heb 11:6) In our efforts as disciple makers, endeavor to reach the heart of students so that they will be motivated to lead purposeful life
- (2) Manifest *repentance*, not simply a mental realization that past course was wrong, but show true sorrow (Ac 3:19)
- (3) Make a *conversion*, turning away from wrong practices to a purposeful course in life (Mr 13:10; Ac 26:20; Heb 10:25)
- (4) In time, make a *dedication* to God (Mt 16:24; 1Pe 2:21)
- (5) Make request to God for a good conscience by being *baptized* in symbol of dedication (1Pe 3:21; w89 1/15 13-16, 19-20; w78 11/1 15)

At this point, disciple enters meaningful relationship with Jehovah  
(Briefly summarize above points for the audience)

**IS YOUR PURPOSE IN LIFE IN HARMONY WITH GOD'S?** (7 min.)

Jehovah's purpose regarding his creation is outlined at Ephesians 1:8-10 (w84 2/1 16-20)

Jehovah's great administration is his managerial procedure, or handling of matters, that produces unity (it-1 48)

God's Kingdom is instrument he uses to bring this about

"Things on the earth" now being gathered as a great crowd to form foundation of "new earth" (Re 21:1)

Preaching the "good news" of God's Kingdom and making disciples who will form the "great crowd," then, is most purposeful work one could now share in (Mt 24:14; 28:19, 20; Re 7:9)

Man was created to do God's will (Re 4:11)

Does your life-style allow for the fullest share possible in preaching and disciple making?

The extent to which we share in such activity, in accord with our circumstances, will help us to determine for ourselves the answer to the question "How purposeful is your life?"

(Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need be read. Source material in parentheses need not be mentioned)