

Stewardship 101

Lesson 5

Job and purpose

PART I EXPLANATION

Introduction: If we are to be good stewards of the life that God has entrusted to us, we must identify God's ultimate purpose for our life. To discover how we are going to seek and serve God on a daily basis. God has made each individual with different gifts for accomplishing His specific purpose. Sadly, the vast majority of Christians never come to identify God purpose for their life despite the Bible's precise instructions on how to determine it. (Rom. 12:1-2). The Bible plan is not trial and error, for life is too short to take that route. There is a much shorter, though difficult way to discover this purpose. There are three specific requirements given in the Bible to be able to "prove" the will of God.

First, and the most difficult step, is to present your life a living sacrifice to God. This is essentially to deny yourself and your personal aspirations because you cannot serve both God and mammon. It is not that it is difficult to do so, it is impossible to do so. The level of service demanded from each will force a decision to choose between the two. Moses is an example when he refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God. The primary reason that so few people have proven the will of God for their lives is that they will not take this first step. This cost counting is not only necessary for preachers but for all who want to identify God's purpose for their lives. You will fulfill God's purpose whether or not you ever recognize it. However, the road will be much harder as you will likely endure chastisements to bring you into submission to His purpose. Jonah is a Bible example of one who had a hard time accepting God's purpose for his life. How much better to be an active participant who can pray, prepare, and perform God's purpose with His glory as our chief desire and joy?

The second step in proving the will of God is to not be conformed to this world. When your reasoning is influenced by the philosophies of this world it is impossible to discern God's will. The carnal mind is enmity against God and the spiritual laws of His kingdom are in total opposition to this world's. In Moses' life, the world's philosophy would have had him become Pharaoh to deliver God's people using his political influence. However, God's plan was to become a servant and sufferer with them allowing God to affect their deliverance, thus giving Him all of the glory. That is the same way that Christ fulfilled God's eternal purpose Eph. 3:11. He didn't come to conquer through political and military genius but to present His body a living sacrifice just as you and I must do. Wealth and power are not God's method to advance His purpose rather it is by absolute surrender to a life of servanthood.

The final step to proving God's purpose is to be transformed by the renewing of your mind. The more you are saturated with the Scriptures the more you understand His perspective. The more principles of God's Word that you understand the more spiritual answers you will have for life's difficult decisions. You must first understand God's ultimate plan and purpose before you can determine where you fit into it. Christians must realize that "proving" the will of God for your life is possible and it should be the normal Christian life. This is the essence of walking by faith, which the just shall do, by living in daily dependent upon God for direction and strength. A primary goal of our enemy is to cause confusion and disruption to thwart discovering God's plan.

Definitions: *For English use the Webster's 1828 Dictionary and copy all appropriate definitions for each word. For the Greek and Hebrew use a Strong's Concordance and copy the definition. The Strong's number is in parenthesis.*

English: **Purpose -**

Prove v.

Employment -

Employ -

Greek: (1011) **bouleuo** *bool-yoo'-o*

(4286) **prothesis** *proth'-es-is*

Hebrew: (559) '**amar** *aw-mar'*

Quotation:

“A man’s greatest care should be for that place where he lives longest; therefore eternity should be his scope.” Thomas Manton

“Every man should have a calling to follow, and should follow his calling...God has given no man a dispensation to be idle. The rule is, and that by commandment, that if any will not work, that is able to work, neither should he eat. If this rule were observed, I am afraid that more rich than poor would go with hungry stomachs and empty bellies.” Ralph Venning

“Idleness tempts the devil to tempt.” Thomas Watson

“A lazy Christian shall always want four things: comfort, content, confidence, and assurance. God hath made a separation between joy and idleness.” Thomas Brooks

“To live well is to live twice.” Samuel Ward

PART II EXPLORATION

Key Questions (*Answer in writing*)

1. What is necessary for us to be good stewards of our life?
 1. Where can we find precise instructions about God’s purpose for our life?
 2. Why doesn’t trial and error work when determining our life’s purpose?
 3. What is the first step to proving the will of God for your life?
 4. Why is it impossible to serve God and mammon?

5. Who is a Bible example of refusing to serve mammon?

6. Who is a Bible example of someone who had a hard time accepting God's purpose?

7. What is the second step to proving the will of God for your life?

8. What is the third and final step to proving the will of God for your life?

9. Why must Christian's understand God's ultimate plan?

Key Scriptures: *(Look up these verses and fill in the blanks)*

I Kings 5:5 Solomon's chief purpose in life was to build an _____ for he LORD his God.

Proverbs 20:18 The way to discover your purpose is through _____ and we should not make major decisions without _____ .

Acts 26:16-17 The apostle's purpose was revealed to him that he should be a _____ and a witness to the _____ .

Romans 8:28 Christians have been called according to the _____ of God.

Romans 9:11 God has a purpose that is worked out through _____ .

Romans 9:17 God raised up Pharaoh for the purpose of revealing His _____ and to spread His _____ across the earth.

II Corinthians 1:17 Paul's daily itinerary of doing mission work was not purposed according to the _____ implying that he had spiritual direction.

Ephesians 1:11 God has an eternal purpose that He is accomplishing in this world and He makes His decisions based upon the _____ of His own _____ .

Philippians 1:21-24 Paul's life was entirely devoted to _____ and his purpose was to minister to the saints at Philippi while he was still alive because they needed him.

II Timothy 1:9 Again our calling to salvation was not random but _____ to His own _____ which was given _____ the world began.

II Timothy 3:10 Paul challenged Timothy to follow his example of life having known his _____ of _____ and his _____ .

II Timothy 4:6-8 When Paul came to the end of his life he was confident that he had not only identified his purpose in life but that he had _____ his _____ and was awaiting his crown.

Key Chapter(s) (*Read daily and summarize in your own words the meaning of the chapter*):

Romans 12

PART III EXPECTATION

Memory verse: Romans 12:1-2

Personal Definition: (*Write a definition in your own words*)

Purpose -

Personal Application: Identify one area in your life that is conformed to the world's philosophy and may be hindering you from identifying the will of God for your life?

Meditation question: (*be prepared for discussion*) What is your specific purpose in life?

Extra Credit: Identify a goal for the year that is related to your purpose in life and break it down into ten achievable actions.