

What is your purpose in life?

➤ = next PowerPoint slide

➤ Intro:

- **songs:** Room In God's Kingdom (#620) / We'll work till Jesus comes (#396)
- **What is your purpose in life? — what is your work in the kingdom**
 - **Zig Ziggler's new book, Better Than Good**
 - heard interview on radio
 - passion will wear you out - sustains you for a while, but you will burn out
 - e.g., people who start something but when the passion is gone they stop (diet, exercise program, new year's resolution)
 - having a purpose sustains you
 - when things get tough, those who have a purpose will keep going
 - **illus.: Roe and Tina**, their purpose is to help people - sustained them through tough times
 - **their purpose:** help people, show others God and Christ and the church by exhibiting Christ in their lives through helping people - story of their conversion
 - **their purpose sustains them:** reason to live through terrible trials
 - **Christian's purpose (general):** - review
- - **Ec. 12:13-14** fear God, keep commandments, judgment
- - **Matt. 6:33** seek first God's kingdom and righteousness
- - **Mk. 12:30** love God all heart, soul, mind, strength
- 2 - **Rom. 12:1** living and holy sacrifice, acceptable
 - **but no one can do everything in God's kingdom** — what is your purpose (specialty, talents) - remainder of lesson
- **What is your purpose in life? — no one can do everything**
 - **leading other to Christ with the gospel — everyone can help**
 - **Acts 8:1, 4; 11:9** Christians scattered, told others - evangelism: Christians telling others
 - **everyone can do it** - various ways, various talents, everyone participates:
 - **be a good example / light** shining in darkness (Eph. 5)
 - **illus.: Allan**, felt successful if I could just be a good example that day
 - **invite / bring to church** - **be a friend: bring your friends to church**
 - **illus.: Gerald Sceaux's** conversion to Christ
 - **tell others about your life and faith**
 - **illus.: talk about the most important things (God, Jesus, church, salvation, etc.)** - upcoming series, Conversational Evangelism
 - **family: raise godly family, help parents and spouse and siblings get to heaven**
 - **illus.: Joseph and Mary** - lead your family in the way of God, others who can go out and tell more people
- - **living testimony** (proof of something) **of God in your life - His blessings** (Conversational Evangelism) — everyone can help
 - **Rom. 12:1-2; Phil. 2:15** prove - show others God and Christ and salvation by your life - living testimony
 - **illus.: lame beggar**
 - **Acts 3** lame beggar who was healed / - **Acts 3:8-11** beggar's testimony, praise God
 - **illus.: today**
 - illness recovery / health

- financial blessings: rich / poorer
- families God has blessed us with / brethren, congregation God has blessed us with

➤ - **encouraging brethren** — everyone can help

- **1 Th. 5:11** our job is to build each other up as you are doing — SL

➤ - **Eph. 4:11-12, 16** church, building each other up

➤2 - **Heb. 10:24-25** assembling, stimulating

- **illus.: greeting one another**, before and after (2 Cor. 13:12)

- **illus.: singing** “all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs” (Col. 3:16)

- **illus.: Ryan**, congregations visited, SL warmest and friendliest — edifying, evangelistic

- **how today:**

- **greeting** and encouraging others at the assemblies

- **share in the work together:** church building, in community, visiting others

- **having brethren in our homes**

- house to house (Acts 2, Pentecost)

- hospitality — “Be hospitable to one another without complaint” (1 Pet. 4:9)

- **visiting people:** physically, phone, any other form of communication

- **doing things together:** spending time together - we encourage one another by just being around each other

➤ - **working in the congregation: teaching / leading / doing chores** — everyone can help

- **1 Cor. 15:58** abound in the work of the Lord, toil is not in vain

- **being leaders:** older women toward younger women / youth / elders and deacons / teachers

- **physical facility:** doing the work that needs to be done with the physical facility - need lots of volunteers

- **teaching (formally, informally):** Bible class teacher, participant in Bible class, conversational teaching, example

- **elderly and young:** attending (Heb. 10:24-25)

- **training** to do the things you can't do today

- more capable people we have working in the congregation, the more fruitful we will become

- tomorrow's leaders in the church

➤ - **giving: (time, talents, \$)** — everyone can help

- **financial giving to help others who are in need:**

- **1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:6-14** command / principles of giving

- **illus.: Acts 4:32-37** sold property and gave money, shared with other in their homes

➤ - **1 Tim. 6:17-19** command to the rich

- **financial giving to help others teach and preach the gospel:**

- **Phil. 4:14-19** financial support of teachers: increased your account, acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing, God supply all your needs

- **working with hands to help those who are in need (time, talents):** (don't have to have money)

- **Acts 9:36-43** Tabitha's death

- **Acts 9:39** evidence of Tabitha's good deeds, heart-felt sorrow, how much Tabitha meant to them

- probably not wealthy, made them herself rather than buy them

- **illus.:** Dawn in hospital at birth, food from Leesburg church, what meant to us, emotion

➤ - **Gal. 6:10** do good to all, esp. those of the household of faith

➤ - **Ja. 1:27** pure and undefiled religion, visit orphans and widows, unspotted from world

➤ **Summary / Conclusion:**

- **What is your purpose in life?**
- **What is your purpose in the Lord's kingdom (church)?**
- **What is your purpose in this congregation?**

- **have a clearly defined purpose:**

- if you have a clearly defined purpose for yourself, it will help sustain you for the long haul - for a life of service to God in good and bad times

Inv.: purpose as Christians - fear God and keep his commandments - do His work - zealous for good deeds