



3rd Sunday of Lent
March 7, 2010

Message: Life Beyond the Credit Cards: Purpose

God has a plan for your life which includes great things.

God has prepared you for the journey of life with all the resources you need.

God has a purpose for your life – that is our focus this day.

God has gifted you with pain to let you know when the path of life could be better.

God has given you power to actually do what you need to do.

God has placed passion in your soul to drive you to do something you should do.

God has placed a desire for meaning in the human spirit.

People are hard wired by God to seek purpose.

We want our lives to have relevance that lives even beyond us.

Where do we find that purpose when we lose our job?

Where do we find that purpose when our credit cards overwhelm us?

Where do we find that purpose when the gift of family gets stressed out?

Do such things distract us from the pursuit of purpose?

Could they even be the very place we find purpose?

If so, it can be awfully difficult to sort through the mess.

What is the journey of purpose?

How can God be a partner in that quest?

The discovery of purpose begins when we love God.

What is love – God's love is not an emotion or a feeling or a chemical reaction.

God's love is active and relational – it is the start of our journey to purpose.

Jesus was being challenged by some religious leaders who didn't like him.

They asked him to sum up the 613 laws of faith of the time.

He took no time to say love God and neighbor.

Love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength.

Why start there?

God provides you the only option where life has relevance beyond death.

I would be desperate if I didn't look at life from an eternal view.

This earthly life is a small part of a much larger plan.

The purpose of life is defined by eternity and God's kingdom.

It is an eternal journey of love.

So how do you love in the midst of the world?

The loving purpose of life is defined by a call to obey God.

This isn't quite so easy for us, no one likes to obey.

Children don't like to obey their parents and other adults.

And adults really don't like to obey other adults.

What about people willing to obey God?

It really comes down to whose path you are going to choose.

You either obey yourself or you obey someone else.

If life seems it could be better, why not give God a try?

What do you have to lose?

We have this assumption that obeying implies doing something we don't want to do.

But what does God want you to do?

How does God want you to love?

We have developed some ways to do something in the name of Jesus.

They are listed in the foyer with opportunities to express your interest.

Maybe you have some ideas of your own.

Then share those with our director of outreach, Jim Carlson.

But God wants you to do something.

And it will be something you are good at.

It will be something about which you are passionate.

It will be something which changes the world.

Crossways Bible Series – Harry Wendt on obeying God.

You are not saved by good works.

You are saved for good works.

You need to make a distinction here.

You're not going to get to heaven because you do something.

Jesus has already done something for everyone.

Being willing to die for us is enough.

You just claim that gift of eternity.

But now what – do we just sit back and take eternity for granted?

This is where the search for purpose comes in.

Indeed, you can be freed up to do something awesome now.

You don't have to worry that you don't do it right.

God will make it right – you just need to be faithful.

It wouldn't be meaningful if my salvation rested on what I do.

I would have my own selfish plans as a part of the story.

But since I am saved by the grace of God, I can live boldly.

I can ask God what He wants me to do.

And I can try to do something important.

Not for me, but for God.

So how do you know if you are faithful?

How do you know you are obeying?

Obedient love finds ultimate purpose in Truth.

Love is a much more difficult issue to understand than we recognize.

We have spent all of human history and culture trying to figure love out.

We write songs and poems – we say we love our spouse.

And then we say we love chocolate.

We say we love our spouse.

And then we say we want to be with someone else.

Love is built on a solid foundation, and that comes best from God.

The truth about love is found in the Bible – a God that keeps forgiving and giving.

The truth about love is found in Jesus – God choosing death if necessary to show love.

The truth about love is found in prayer, discipleship groups, worship.

Today, the purpose of life is discovered through acts of love driven by obedience to God.

Today, no matter how hard you try yourself, you will not find the meaning you yearn for.

You'll just get distracted by crying kids, career crisis and credit crunch.

Give God a try, look to love as He loves, and you will do something important with life.

Life Beyond the Credit Cards

Crying Kids? Career Crisis? Credit Crunch?

If so, then *Do Something!*

Week 3: Purpose

God has a PLAN for your life which includes great things.

God has placed a desire for MEANING in the human spirit.

The discovery of purpose begins when we LOVE God.

The loving purpose of life is defined by a call to OBEY God.

Obedient love finds ultimate purpose in TRUTH.