

Living on Purpose

Matt VanCleave

January 14th, 2024

We would like your feedback!

Please answer this brief survey to help us provide you with a better small group experience!

<https://forms.gle/1miQBLuCAeKLC1qc7>

Review Last Week's Next Steps

- I will go to sleep remembering God is the one in control.
- I will start the morning asking God for wisdom, guidance and strength.
- I will ask God to wash my mind and my heart.
- I will use my car as a reminder to eliminate hurry from my life.
- I will eat food with joy and nourish my spirit with Scripture.
- I will submit to God's control of my life.
- I will ask the question, "Can I help you?"
- I will invite God to be with me in my leisure time.

THIS WEEK'S SERMON RECAP

The writer of Psalm 1 lays out two ways of living.

1. We can go with the flow. We can let the world squeeze us into its mold. We can live by default.
2. We can live on purpose. We can be formed by the thoughts of God. We can meditate on Scripture and take delight in its wisdom. We can get into community where people keep us accountable, sharpen us, and remind us that God is at work in our lives.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Please read Psalm 1: 1-3 together:
“(1)Blessed is the one who does not walk in the counsel of the ungodly or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, (2)but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. (3)That person is like a tree

planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither – whatever they do prospers.”

Pastor Matt said, “The psalmist here is saying that you must decide if you’re going to live your life by default or on purpose.”

Why do you think the default is to drift and end up in disaster?

2. The psalmist mentions three different categories of life in the drift mode: “walking in the counsel of the ungodly”, “standing in the way that sinners take”, and “sitting in the company of mockers”. Let’s take a look at each one.

First, “walking in the counsel of the ungodly”:

Matt said, “Most of the time it is not completely evil counsel. There may be some truth in it, but it’s just enough off that if you listen to this counsel, it will lead you in a direction that will eventually place you far from where God wants you to be.”

Why is this one so pervasive, widespread, and subtle in the world we live in?

3. “Standing in the way that sinners take”:

We live in a world so easy to stand in the way that sinners take and we find our way of life affected (not just our thinking by counsel) before we know it. Can you share your experience when you conformed to others’ actions even though it was not ideal or it was not what you believed in?

4. “Sitting in the company of mockers”:

Scripture says in Proverbs 22:10, “Drive out the mocker, and out goes strife: quarrels and insults are ended.” It is also written in Proverbs 21:23-24, “He who guards his mouth and his tongue keeps himself from calamity. The proud and arrogant man – “mocker” is his name.” Living in drift mode, it is easy to settle down in the seat of mockers whose lives turn away in foolishness and worthlessness. Why is becoming a mocker so damaging?

5. The psalmist is pointing out that the only way to escape this human condition of drifting on is a determined and intentional radical change: living on purpose. How do we deliberately allow God to transform our way of thinking, feeling, perceiving, and acting?
6. Matt articulated “those who delight in the law of God” as people struck by how wonderfully good God’s thoughts are for human existence that it brings joy to them, and “to meditate on God’s law day and night” as to fill our mind with the thoughts of God so that we can have more of God’s perspective.

From drifting on and allowing the world to set the agenda to choosing to meditate and find our delight in the thoughts of God is a dramatic paradigm shift. As an individual, what would it take for you to have this transformation?

7. On the community side, gathering as a church community means to sit among other people who delight in the presence of God and study the Word of God. Jesus said, “For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.” Can you recall and share what the pastor said about why we need the practice of assembling without negligence? Also, can you elaborate on why you, personally, need to be in a church community?

NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)

- I will take one thought of God expressed in Scripture and live with it throughout the day.
- I will not allow my mind to drift all the time.
- I will not miss assembling together with the church on a weekly basis.
- I will make being at Blue Oaks a time of worshiping and learning in community.
- I will join a small group and build relationships with others at Blue Oaks.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Psalm 1:1-6
- Matthew 7:24-27
- Romans 12:2
- Psalm 46:10
- Hebrews 10:24-25
- Matthew 18:20
- Psalm 73:1-28

Prayer Request(s)

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