

# 537 Why Am I Here?

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## God's Answers to Life's Questions

Many people suffer what is commonly called an “identity crisis.” They don’t know who they are or why they are in this world. They can’t seem to “find themselves,” in part because they lack a sense of purpose in life. Many people seem to be seeking something out there that gives their lives meaning and purpose. They are keenly hungry for something, but they are not sure what it is they want. So they go from thing to thing, searching for some satisfaction, only to find life frustrating again and again. Why? They aren’t looking for life in the right place.

In the Old Testament, the man who had everything, I mean everything, was the king named Solomon, the son of David. He had wealth, power, wisdom, possessions, wives, servants, and anything a man could dream about. Yet the wisest, richest, most admired man in the world said time after time in the book of Ecclesiastes, “Vanity of vanities,” says the Preacher, “Vanity of vanities! All is vanity. What advantage does man have in all his work Which he does under the sun?” (Eccl. 1:2-3). He found that all his advantages did not bring him the satisfaction he longed for.

Solomon said, “All things are wearisome; Man is not able to tell it. The eye is not satisfied with seeing, Nor is the ear filled with hearing. That which has been is that which will be, And that which has been done is that which will be done. So there is nothing new under the sun” (Eccl. 1:8-9). Life “*under the sun*” for Solomon had become boring and wearisome. He had seen and heard it all, and there was nothing new. If all we know is life “*under the sun*,” we too might come to be bored and weary of life. It can feed the body, but life under the sun cannot feed the soul. When the soul remains unfed it is empty indeed of what real life is all about.

Solomon tried wisdom. Solomon said in Ecclesiastes 1:13-15, “I set my mind to seek and explore by wisdom concerning all that has been done under heaven. It is a grievous task which God has given to the sons of men to be afflicted with. I have seen all the works which have been done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and striving after wind. What is crooked cannot be straightened and what is lacking cannot be counted.” Here, the wisest man in the world, finds wisdom “*under the sun*” an unanswerable riddle, beyond his ability to solve.

Solomon next tried pleasure and possessions. “I said to myself, “Come now, I will test you with pleasure. So enjoy yourself.” And behold, it too was futility. I said of laughter, “It is madness,” and of pleasure, “What does it accomplish?” I explored with my mind *how* to stimulate my body with wine while my mind was guiding *me* wisely, and how to take hold of folly, until I could see what good there is for the sons of men to do under heaven the few years of their lives” (Eccl. 2:1-3). Laughter and wine did not take away the emptiness of the soul. Solomon needed more than what he could find under the sun.

Solomon continues, “I enlarged my works: I built houses for myself, I planted vineyards for myself; I made gardens and parks for myself and I planted in them all kinds of fruit trees; I made ponds of water for myself from which to irrigate a forest of growing trees. I bought male and female slaves and I had homeborn slaves. Also I possessed flocks and herds larger than all who preceded me in Jerusalem. Also, I collected for myself silver and gold and the treasure of kings and provinces. I provided for myself male and female singers and the pleasures of men—many concubines” (Eccl. 2:5-8). But what did he find?

“Then I became great and increased more than all who preceded me in Jerusalem. My wisdom also stood by me. All that my eyes desired I did not refuse them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, for my heart was pleased because of all my labor and this

was my reward for all my labor. Thus I considered all my activities which my hands had done and the labor which I had exerted, and behold all was vanity and striving after wind and there was no profit under the sun” (Eccl. 2:9-11). Life “under the sun” is not like life with an understanding of God. As wise as he was, Solomon was missing God.

The book of Ecclesiastes takes a number of twists and turns, but in the end Solomon admits, “The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this *applies to* every person. For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil” (Eccl. 12:13-14). Many people like Solomon don’t get that point until they have tried everything else first. Life is without God in the soul is empty, vain, futile. Solomon was right: “Vanity of vanities; all is vanity... a chasing after the wind.”

The sad thing, my friend, is that your life or mine may not be any better than Solomon’s while he lived “under the sun.” It’s not until we begin to add God to our lives that we can understand life under the sun at all. It is only then that we can begin to answer that most important question, “Why am I here?” Even with every advantage, life without God is boring and empty. Faith in Jesus Christ is what gives our lives the meaning and purpose. It is in Him that we figure out who we are and why we are here. Nothing can take His place. Nothing can give you the fulfillment that a loving relationship with Christ can give.

The Bible teaches that we were created. It’s only been in the last century and a half that men began to talk of evolution. Whether you were created with purpose or whether you evolved by chance does matter in how you see yourself, what you believe about morality, and how you live your life. Some who believe we evolved from apes and deny there is a God, cannot really answer the question, “Why are we here?” We are a product of nature with no accountability to a higher power than we see in this life. Such people have little reason to live a life above the level of “eat, drink, and be merry.” This is all there is.

But if God is in our lives, we have a completely different perspective. God said in Genesis 1:26-27, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God made us to be like Himself with a soul and spirit. Hebrews 12:9 tells us that God is the “father of our spirits.”

In Revelation 4:11, the twenty-four elders sang around the throne of God this song: “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.” We were created by God for His glory. We are here to be His children and to live close to Him in this life and in the life to come. Paul said in Titus 2:11-14, “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.” God wants to give you all His love and grace to help you to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world. He wants to redeem you from the mass of humanity that doesn’t know Him or live for Him. He wants to live in your life and do good to others through you. I cannot imagine a more meaningful, satisfying life than that of a true Christian.

The Lord has a plan for our lives. He wants us to live above the world. Paul told the Ephesians, who once did not know God, “So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. But you did not learn Christ in this way, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in *the likeness of* God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth” (Ephesians 4:17-24). God wants you to live a life that is above those who don’t know Him. He wants to help you find the joy, peace, love and purpose that only He can give. He has a life of joy, service, fulfillment that is truly abundant! It can be yours in Christ!

Jesus said in John 10:10, “I came that they may have life, and have it more abundantly.” That life Jesus wants for you is not merely life on this earth but also the life He has planned for you for all eternity. You are not here on this earth just to live here. Jesus is preparing a place for you to dwell with Him through all eternity. The sad thing is that many people never think of life beyond this life and their accountability before God. Jesus spoke of two different “ways” or “roads,” each going in a very different direction. You see, our choices and purpose in life will indeed affect our destinies.

Jesus said in Matthew 7:13-14, “Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.” This passage surprises many people. Most folks think that nearly everyone is going to heaven. A recent poll said that 88% percent of Americans “feel accepted” by God, yet Jesus said most people choose the easy way that leads to destruction. Could it be that we have lost sight of true faith and have become believers instead in popular religion?

The grace of God is available for those who will love Him, believe in Christ, and will serve Him. That’s the purpose of your life, why the Lord created you. Paul said in Ephesians 2:4-7, “But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”

Yes, you’ve been saved by grace through faith (verse 8). Faith means that you will be willing to love and serve Him all the days of your life. To become a Christian you must believe with all your heart that Jesus is the Christ, repent of every sin and turn your heart to the Lord, confess the name of Jesus, and be baptized (immersed in water) for the forgiveness of your sins. Until your life comes into harmony with God’s purpose for you, you will never fulfill the reason why you are here.

Jeremiah 29:11 says, “‘For I know the plans that I have for you,’ declares the LORD, ‘plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.’” God loves each of us and wants everyone to be saved and have a knowledge of the truth (1 Tim. 2:3-4). Jesus is now in heaven making intercession with the Father for Christians (Heb. 7:25 and 1 John 2:1-2). He promises us that He will prepare a dwelling place (a mansion) for us, so that we can live with Him forever and ever. How sad it would be for God to prepare for us, but for us to fail to prepare for Him.

Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:10, “But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.” God’s saving grace is extended to you, just like it was to Paul. What will you do with it? Will you become the kind of person God intended. We have asked, “why am I here?” We are here on this earth to be lights to the world, to be the salt of the earth, to tell the message of Jesus to everyone who will listen, and to be zealous for good works. Don’t let the grace of God prove vain for you and miss out on His blessing.

This week we are offering a pamphlet entitled, “Ten Things God Wants in Your Life.” You can write or call us or go to our website: [God-answers.org](http://God-answers.org) and download a free copy. This pamphlet lays out His plan for your life and how He wants the very best for you. There has never been a day, an hour, a minute, or even a second when God hasn’t loved you. God’s arms are open wide, longing for you to come home to Him and to the family He has on this earth, the church. God has designed the church to provide the loving family you need. It’s all part of His plan from eternity to bless your life.

We’re not here to get your money. We’re here to help you get to heaven. All the expenses are paid by your friends at Concord Road Church of Christ in Brentwood, Tennessee. If you are in our area, we’d love to meet you. Worship with us some Sunday at 9 am or 6 pm. You are always welcome and wanted. If you cannot visit us, there is a wonderful congregation of the churches of Christ near you. We’d love to hear from you. Until next week, we remind you to look to God for all your answers. God bless you and we love you from Concord Road.

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