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3 *"Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player, that struts and frets his hour upon the stage, and then is heard no*
4 *more; it is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing."-- Macbeth, in the Shakespeare play.*

5

6 *"God is dead. God remains dead. And we have killed him. How shall we comfort ourselves, the murderers of all*
7 *murderers? What was holiest and mightiest of all that the world has yet owned has bled to death under our*
8 *knives: who will wipe this blood off us? What water is there for us to clean ourselves? What festivals of*
9 *atonement, what sacred games shall we have to invent? Is not the greatness of this deed too great for us? Must*
10 *we ourselves not become gods simply to appear worthy of it?"--Freidrich Nietzsche*

11

12 *"Is that all there is, is that all there is; If that's all there is my friends, then let's keep dancing;*
13 *Let's break out the booze and have a ball; If that's all there is"*—from the song by Jerry Leiber / Mike Stoller,
14 1960's, made famous when sung by Peggy Lee.

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16 *Luke 12: ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat,*
17 *drink, and be merry.*

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19 *Job. 14:1: Man that is born of woman is few of days and full of trouble.*

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21 If the above statements were a true and complete picture of what it means to be alive, the prospects
22 would be undesirable indeed. Fortunately, the Bible gives us a better picture of our purpose.

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24 *Ecclesiastes 12:1: Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the*
25 *years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;....¹³ Let us hear the conclusion of the whole*
26 *matter: **Fear God, and keep his commandments:** for this is the whole duty of man.*

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28 *Psalms 30:12: To the end **that my glory may sing praise to thee, and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give***
29 *thanks unto thee for ever.*

30

31 We are all asked as children, "what do you want to be when you grow up?" We hear people talk of
32 purpose and fulfillment in their work, hobbies, causes, and lives. And God made us with those ambitions.
33 God wants pre-eminence in every area of our lives. He wants us to give Him what we might call a "right of first
34 refusal" on our plans, purchases, goals and choices. Better still, He wants us to come to Him FIRST, to make His
35 desires for us the primary factor in our decisions. Sadly, many do not. But He offers a purpose in life that
36 transcends our work and life, no matter their routine or exceptional nature. He wants to lead us in doing those
37 things in the way lets Him use us in those things.

38

39 If you do not know Jesus Christ personally as Savior, as His child, you have only one hope and purpose in
40 live: to accept Him, come into a relationship with Him, and be saved from your sins. You could be good, happy,
41 great, successful and rich yet have no meaning that lasts even one second beyond your death. (Matt. 16:26). In
42 addition, your every perceived pleasure and satisfaction will fall short of one moment of fellowship with God.

43

43 But when you are saved, you join the ranks of the redeemed and begin a walk with God. To new and
44 long-time Christians alike, God offers purpose and meaning that we want to explore.

44

44 Christ makes an offer to those who are willing to follow Him with an unqualified commitment. He gave
45 some examples of what it means:

45

46 *Matt. 10:38: He that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.*

46

47 *Luke 9:62: And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit*

47

48 *for the kingdom of God.*

48

49 *Luke 18:28-30: Then Peter said, Lo, we have left all, and followed thee.²⁹ And he said unto them, Verily I*

49

50 *say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the*

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51 *kingdom of God's sake,³⁰ Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to*

51

52 *come life everlasting.*

53 Jesus made it clear that there is a determined choice available to follow Him for life, at cost of earthly
54 things, yet with a promise that He rewards those who make that choice. This is purpose; this is opportunity; this
55 is devotion; this is serving not just a cause “bigger than oneself” but rather the greatest in the universe.
56

57 Our purpose in life is to bring glory to God. I Cor. 10: ³¹ Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or
58 whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. As we live our lives, have families, work, grow through life as long
59 as God grants it, we can have purpose that shows God’s presence in our lives.
60

61 We are all obligated by love:
62

63 1) To grow

64 a) in knowledge: *2 Tim. 2:15: Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be*
65 *ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

66 b) in wisdom: *Col. 3:16: Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing*
67 *one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*

68 c) in devotion: *Ephesians 6:24: Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.*
69

70 2) To glow

71 a) with His glory: *2 Cor. 3:18, 2 Cor. 4:18; Eph. 1:12: That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first*
72 *trusted in Christ.*

73 b) with His joy: *John 15:11: These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that*
74 *your joy might be full.*

75 c) with His love: *1 John 4:21b... that he who loveth God love his brother also.*
76

77 3) To go

78 a) with the Gospel: *Mark 16:15: And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to*
79 *every creature.*

80 b) to the world: *Mark 16:15: And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to*
81 *every creature.*

82 c) determinately: *Phil 3:14: I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus*
83

84 At any age, at any stage, we can ask God to show us what to do, small or great, give us faith to trust Him and
85 do it, and to make the outcome what He wants.
86

87 We are here to be salt and light. We have a spiritual, social, and societal purpose in the world. We could ask
88 for no greater purpose, and we could choose no greater failure than to decline to fulfill it.