

## Ultimate Question #4

### What is the meaning of life?

**Intro:** Based on our prior studies we've seen that there is a God who created the world and who has revealed Himself to us so that we may know what He is a God who is personal, powerful, eternal, just, holy, loving.

What about us? Why are we here? What is the purpose of this great universe and we its inhabitants? Does human life have any meaning or purpose? What is the meaning of life?

#### If God doesn't exist, life really doesn't have a meaning.

*Suppose one believes that life occurred here on earth by chance. That man is nothing more than a cosmic accident made by the processes of evolution. Here then is, from an evolutionist' viewpoint, the goal of evolution.*

Evolution does not have a purpose, in the sense of a fixed goal to which it is advancing. However, although evolution is largely unpredictable, it is not random either. Selection can be seen as having the implicit goal of maximizing survivability or fitness. This implies a preferred direction of evolution, which is in practice characterized by increasing complexity, adaptivity and intelligence.

*With this as the stated goal of evolution, the evolutionist would venture this answer to the question, "What is the meaning of life?."*

"This question in a sense summarizes all previous questions. It is usually understood as: "What are the highest values, the Supreme Goals which I should try to achieve?" We stress that every human being must freely set those goals for himself or herself. The supreme goal which we choose derives logically from our cybernetic world view: to make a constructive contribution to the evolution of humanity, in order to maximize our long-term chances of survival (immortality). In essence, the meaning of life is to increase evolutionary fitness."

*Is this your definition? Does that really satisfy you? Can you see what utter vanity life is in this world view without God? The best we can do is to try to keep going what chance started. The only hope of immortality is not personal but collective. We can only hope for the immortality of the human race; but all of us must die without any hope beyond the grave for ourselves. And all we do on earth gives way to this one ultimate goal that we keep the human race going while we yield to death! How does that feel? Does it ring true? Is this the meaning of your life?*

#### If God does exist and man is his creation, then the meaning of our lives depends upon His reasons for creating us!

*First we may see God's purpose for creating man by considering the*

*original created state of man.*

God placed man over the creation he made and urged him to be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it (Gen. 1:26-30). Furthermore God placed human kind in a beautiful garden where they could not only fulfill their earth-oriented purposes but also have a relationship with Him. Perhaps we see a clue to what this relationship was like in Gen. 2:8. It appears that God appeared to the first human pair. He talked with them. He gave them opportunity to know Him. In the garden, we see God's original intention to have a relationship with man where there was communication, love, and blessing.

God expressed His own pleasure with this arrangement in the Genesis record. And God saw that all that He had made was "very good" (Gen. 1:31).

Man fell from this created state by sin and was forced by God's holiness to leave His presence. Yet even here we see that God's purpose had not changed.

*From that day God began a plan to redeem fallen man and restore him to that fellowship lost in the garden.*

God chose the Hebrew people to reveal Himself and with Him to enter His covenant. They would be a people for His own possession and He would be their God. Through them God would bring into the world a Redeemer to reconcile fallen man back to God. They would model to the world what it is like to have a relationship with the creator. Jeremiah the prophet expresses what it was that God wanted from His people (Jer. 9:23)

As for the Gentile people, God was lost to them. They were given over to idolatry and immorality. Yet even so, God's purpose for them had not changed. Paul expresses that purpose very clearly: "*that they might seek Him that they might touch Him and find Him*" (Ac. 17:27).

After many centuries, God's redeemer did come. He knew His purpose very clearly.

*The Son of man is come to seek and to save the lost! (Lk. 19:10).*

*The son of man did not come to be served, but to serve, giving his life a ransom for many (Mt. 20:28).*

*"If I be lifted up, I will draw all men to myself" (Jn. 13).*

He knew it would take the giving of his life to reconcile sinful men to God and create a people who truly knew and loved God.

**And so having accomplished this redemption through His death, burial, and resurrection, He sent his disciples throughout the world with a message of reconciliation. "You can be restored to fellowship with God. You can have a relationship with Him of communication and love. The church of Christ consists of those**

**who enter such a relationship with God through Christ.**

*“For you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light” (1 Pet. 2:9)*

**But though we enjoy a life of love and communication with Him as the people of God, His purpose is not yet totally achieved. He wants to bring “many sons to glory” (Heb. 2:10). He wants you to be where He is. That’s what Jesus wanted—“that they may be where you are” (Jn. 17:20). His plan is that His church be brought into His glorious eternal presence.**

*In heaven men may enjoy that relationship with God for which they were first created. All that was lost in the garden will be regained through Christ in heaven. Here we see the stark contrast between the life of faith and the life of unbelief!*

**Atheism can give you something to do; but God offers us a real purpose for living.**

**Atheism offers man only an uncertain collective immortality; but God offers you a sure personal immortality. You can have eternal life abiding in you. You can live forever with God!!!**

*So often we exchange this wonderful purpose for a life that far inferior. Some have no clue as to why they are here! They can only define who they are in terms of their work or their family or their money. Others who have gained a higher glimpse into the real meaning of life often fail to enjoy to the full the life they could have with God. They may have enough religion to keep them miserable, but not enough of God to fill them with joy! And so...*

**We know we have found life’s meaning when we:**

*Know & love God for who He is and what He does in our lives.*

*When we are reconciled to Him through Christ and know that we can speak to Him about every need and problem and He will hear us.*

*When we have grasped how great his wisdom is and we live a life of respect and obedience to Him knowing that His will is best for us.*

*When we have a joy and hope in our hearts of seeing him work in our lives and being with Him in heaven.*

**Conclusion: Does this describe your life? Do you have such a relationship with God and such a joy and hope in God? Why settle for something far less than what God made you to be? You and I are living in a world of dying men. We will also take our turn. All that we have lived and worked for in this life will be stripped from us. Is there nothing more?**

**We can try to ignore the issue. We can try to distract ourselves from giving sober thought to the ultimate questions, “Where did I come from? Why am I here? Where are I going?” Deep inside us there is a restlessness that only God**

can calm. **“You have formed us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until we find rest in you”. Only when we have found God can our souls truly rest and say, “I know the meaning of my life”.**