

Preacher's Pen points



“the reason I live is...”



Wednesday morning on the way to work I was listening to a CD of hymns. The verse of one song especially caught my attention.

“When I Look Into your Holiness”

“When I look into your holiness, when I gaze into Your loveliness; when all things that surround become shadows in the light of You; when I’ve found the joy of reaching Your heart, when my will becomes enthralled in Your love, when all things that surround become shadows in the light of You, I worship You, I worship you. The reason I live is to worship You.” (from song #212 in Songs of Faith & Praise)

Why We Live

How often our reason for living falls far short of the noble idea of this song. Every day people live for various reasons, some noble and some ignoble, some important and some unimportant, some significant and some trivial. Some live to attain material things. Some live to enjoy family and friends. Some live to experience pleasure. Some live to practice sin. The list is endless.

Why We Really Live

If indeed we believe that God exists and that *“in Him we live, move, and exist”*, then the meaning of our lives must be defined by His purpose in creating us. That, it seems to me, is the premise behind the author’s statement: “the reason I live is to worship you.

The question, “Why did God make me?” is not a question we often ask. The Scripture affirms God’s intention to create human beings with these words, *“let Us make man in Our image and after Our likeness”* (Gen. 1:26). But, why did God do so? The

only answer we can give is “because He wanted to!” Our creation is an act of God’s sovereign will. God did not make us because He needed human beings. He existed eternally without us. He is not only self-existent; He is also self-sufficient. Yet, in this one (so far as we know) act of creation God brought into existence billions of people. His purpose for them is simply stated by Paul to the Athenians: *“that they should seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him...”* (Ac. 17:27)

When We Fulfill Our Created Purpose

The most amazing thing of all is that when we discover our real created purpose then every part of life takes on new perspective. All earthly pursuits become, as the poet suggested, “shadows” in the light of God’s radiant glory. When we fulfill our created purpose we see God as the reason for our existence and the frame of reference for all our activities. The knowledge of Him becomes our greatest joy and delight. He is not a part of life a couple of hours on Sunday; He is the center of our lives all the time. We live to worship Him!

And when that happens, then everything else falls into place. By honoring and trusting Him, by listening and praying to Him, He responds by giving us His blessing and guidance. All the things we seek in less noble quests, He supplies to us freely—joy, peace, contentment, love of family and friends, the genuine pleasures of this earthly life. Sadly, many people live their whole lives resistant to the idea of God and miss the true meaning of their lives. Others, having found God, live with meaning and satisfaction. How would you finish that statement, “the reason I live...”??? —Johnny Felker