

threaten to tear us apart, each one grasping for meaning and purpose through their own efforts. But Jesus Christ lived, died, and rose again so that we might experience grace, God's grace. And these millions now have one overwhelming purpose for living—to bring others to the knowledge of Christ as Savior.

If you are looking for something to live for, join hands with those whose all-consuming passion in life is to spread the knowledge of God through the Gospel of His Son. That is something to work for. That is something to *live* for. It will give your life purpose, its God-intended purpose. And that will give you an inner satisfaction—a sense of purposeful vocation—you have never felt before.

## THE GLIMPSE OF A GLORIOUS PURPOSE

One day a man stopped at a huge construction project. He asked the first worker what he was doing. "I carry bricks," was the curt reply. A moment later he put the same question to another laborer. "I mix the mortar," this man growled. Just then a third man walked up and the man on the street asked, "And what *you* doing?" With eager expectation, he looked up to the soaring walls of the rising structure and exclaimed, "I'm building a cathedral!"

All three were working toward the same goal, or were they? The third man had caught a vision beyond the grasp of the other two. And having caught the vision, he was no longer merely carrying bricks or mixing mortar—he was building a cathedral. He had caught the glimpse of a glorious *purpose*, and everything he did from hour to hour was yet another step toward living out that purpose.

So, too, the life that holds the vision of God's purpose is like that of building a cathedral. Bricks, mortar, and sand there may be, but rising out of them are the clear lines of a glorious edifice—one dedicated to the greater glory of God and to the eternal welfare of all mankind. That's *living for LIFE!*

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# Something to Live For



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## SPOKES WITHOUT A HUB

A young man returned from the war zone feeling unsettled. Disgruntled at home, dissatisfied at work, and discouraged over his inability to “find himself,” his search finally led him to seek the help of a psychiatrist. “What you lack,” said the doctor, “is a center around which all the pieces of your life can fit together with meaning.” This young man’s life was like spokes without a hub, and until a hub could be found it would be impossible for the various spokes to be held in place.

A friend directed him to a Christian pastor. It took but a short while for the young man to find the solid center around which his life could be built, for in the quiet of that pastor’s office, he was introduced to Christ. For the first time, he saw himself in true perspective. Believing in Christ, he soon saw the loose ends of his life being drawn together around a sure and certain center. The scattered spokes had found their hub, and one-by-one they fell into place.

Many a life today is bruised and twisted, lacking a strong and sturdy hub for holding its scattered spokes in place. It has no solid center around which it can group its thoughts, emotions, and aspirations—

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nothing upon which it can build with purpose and design.

## A SOLID CENTER

The Christian religion offers each and every person a solid center *around* which, and *upon* which, to build the structure of life. This solid center is more than just a place; it is a power, a passion, and a purpose. From this very center comes forth a constant flow of power from the inside out, permeating our everyday activity. From this center surges a passion for living, for doing, for dying. This center is Christ. For the apostle Paul, this center emanated a constant sense of *purpose*, an almost Christ-like determination from which he was empowered to “...do the work of Him who sent Me” (John 9:4).

The eminent John Newton once said, “If two angels came down from heaven to execute a divine command, and one was appointed to conduct an empire, while the other was appointed to sweep the streets, they would feel no inclination to change employments.” Why not? Because each would sense the sure conviction that he was carrying out God’s purpose and that by his service, great or small, he was contributing to the achievement of the divine design.

Merely living from day to day in futility—without a purpose—leaves one feeling empty. We need for Christ to give our life purpose—God’s purpose. In the Bible we find two examples of different approaches to life, each one centered on an altogether different goal. The first example is that of a rich man who knew very definitely what he

was living for—his whole life revolved around the abundance of things he could accumulate. But he was living for things that were temporal, things that would not last into eternity; God spoke of the futility of such a life when He said, “*You fool!*” (You can find this story in parable form in Luke 12:16-21.)

The second example is found in the life of the apostle Paul. The very things the foolish rich man had hung his heart upon meant nothing at all to Paul. And the things that meant nothing to the rich man were the very things for which Paul was living, for Paul had hung his heart on something infinitely higher: “*For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain*” (Philippians 1:21).

## LIVING WITH FOCUS

Paul had learned the meaning of a life driven by a single motive and focused on a single purpose: “*For me to live is Christ!*” The rich man was all wrapped up in himself, while Paul was all wrapped up in Christ. Indeed Paul knew what he was living for, and he lived for it with all his might! From a prison cell in Rome he wrote: “*But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the*

*righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me*” (Philippians 3:7-12).

Christ had taken hold of Paul’s life in order that Paul himself might take hold of the supreme purpose of human existence: to know God and to bring others to that knowledge. Essentially, the purpose of *your* life is no different from that of the apostle Paul. You are here, first of all to know God; and, secondly, to bring others to that knowledge. That is your reason for existing. That is what you are here for. That is your *purpose*.

There are millions today who have learned to know God as their Father through the revelation of His Son in the Bible. They have come to know that God sent His very own Son to conquer those things that would

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