

WHY>

MESSAGE ONE:

Why Am I Here?

Pastor Mike Chapman

To be human is to have questions. The issue is not our questions. It the fact that our lives are filled with so much busyness that we don't have time to ponder them and to reflect. We're running on the treadmill of life, and it's like we don't know how to stop.

At a midlife crisis point in his life, the writer of Ecclesiastes reflected on his own life in chapter one of his book. Words that immediately come to mind when we read what he wrote are *meaninglessness, futility, discontent, insignificance*. Today, let's probe the question: *Why am I here? Is there a purpose? Does life have meaning?*

TO FIND MEANING YOU MUST FIRST DISCOVER ORIGIN

The question of origin is: **Where did I come from?**

The question of meaning is: **Why am I here?**

How you answer the first question determines how you will be able to answer the second.

The presupposition of this message is that there is a God who is the reason for all that exists.

Genesis 1:1, *In the beginning, God...*

Colossians 1:16, *Everything got started in him and finds its purpose in him. He was there before any of it came into existence and holds it all together right up to this moment.* (Msg)

WHAT DOES GOD HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THE QUESTION?

"God doesn't roll dice." –Albert Einstein

God works on purpose for a purpose.

Proverbs 16:4, *The LORD has made everything for his own purpose.* (NIV)

God has told us our purpose is to...

Know him

Ephesians 1:4, *Long before he laid down the earth's foundations, God had us in mind, and He settled on us as the focus of his love.* (Msg)

Glorify him

Romans 11:36, *For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.* (NIV)

Ephesians 1:12, *We were chosen so that we would bring praise to God's glory.* (NCV)

1 Corinthians 10:31, *Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.* (NIV)

Romans 12:1, *So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering.* (Msg)

Enjoy him

John 10:10, *My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.* (NLT)

Forever!

Ephesians 1:10, *This was his purpose, when the time is ready he will gather us all together from wherever we are...to be with him in Christ forever.* (Msg)

THE QUESTION FINDS ITS ANSWER IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Jesus made a bold, audacious claim.

John 14:6-7, *Jesus answered, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. The only way to the Father is through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father, too."* (NCV)

To connect with God through his Son, Jesus, is to be **awakened** from spiritual slumber and to discover the **life** and **adventure** of ultimate meaning.