

Series: Why Do We Need God?

Jun 4, 2017 – A Purpose: The Joy of Following Christ (Philippians 4:1-16)

The Meaning of Life: Why am I Here?

How does the question of our origin relate to the question of our purpose? How does our view of God affect our view of ourselves?

What life purpose does atheistic evolution offer us? What life purposes does society offer us?

Paul Discovers Treasure (1-11)

1-6 – What was Paul's background? What sort of life purpose did he turn away from?

Paul leaves everything to pursue the treasure of knowing Christ, which involves two kinds of knowing – gnosis and ginosko.

7-9 – What does Paul gain through the "knowledge of" Christ?

10-11 – What does Paul gain through "getting to know" Christ?

Paul's Pursuit of the Prize (12-16)

Though Paul's righteousness depends on faith (9), and he anticipates resurrection, he knows that He has not yet arrived.

12-16 – What phrases do you see, that describe His life pursuit?

What does this say about the potential for growth and experience in the Christian life? (10-11)

The Joy of Knowing and Becoming

In light of Paul's words, how should we view our lives and work as meaningful and valuable?

What have you been pursuing? Has it been fulfilling?

Are there areas in life where you're knowing & becoming like Christ?

"Read with open ears; pray with open eyes; fellowship with open hands" – is God inviting you to meet Him through one of these?

Philippians 4:1-16

¹ Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you.

² Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh. ³ For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh-- ⁴ though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith-- ¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. ¹⁶ Only let us hold true to what we have attained.