6/17/20 Devotional

Let us contemplate these Old Testament verses from the prophet Isaiah and the Psalms.

*“Bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth, everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.” Isaiah 43:6-7*

*“Declare God’s glory among the nations, God’s marvelous works among all the peoples.” “Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the nations, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name. Worship the Lord in the splendor of His holiness, tremble before him, all the earth.” Psalm 96*

What is the meaning of life? What is the purpose of life? What would your answer be? This philosophical question has been answered in a myriad of ways over the centuries. Here are some thoughts, but by no means all of the answers, that people have given to the question.

There is no meaning to life. Life is devoid of meaning or purpose. Death and suffering negate any sense of meaning or purpose. It is a vain pursuit.

The purpose of life cannot be discovered. It is impossible to find. It is a mystery. It is hidden. It exists but remains beyond the ability of the human mind to grasp. One must decide what is meaningful for oneself.

The meaning of life is in the quest for it. It is the process of looking for it. The purpose of life is in the journey of questioning, seeking and searching.

The meaning of life is materialism. It is to gain, acquire, consume, and accumulate things. “He who dies with the most toys wins.”

The meaning of life is achieving power. It is becoming powerful and exercising power and authority over others.

The meaning of life is serving others. It is to help, assist, and aid other people during one’s lifetime. Altruism is the true purpose of life.

The purpose of life is happiness. It is discovering what makes one happy and living for that experience.

The purpose of life is perpetuating the human race. It is ensuring a posterity. It is producing children and in turn future generations.

What does our Judeo-Christian tradition say in response to the question? What is the answer for followers of Jesus? Does the Bible answer the question?

The answer is found in God, in God’s revelation in Jesus Christ. Everything begins with God and has its purpose in God. The answer does not lie within us. The answer does not lie in philosophy. The answer does not lie in nature. The answer is not in politics. The answer does not lie in materialism. Scripture says Jesus Christ is the image of God, the light of the knowledge of the glory of God. Scripture says in Christ is the image of the invisible God. For in Christ the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.

It is in God that we find out who we are, why we are, and what we are to live for. The scripture points to the glory of God for the answer. It says God has created us and formed us for His glory. It says declare God’s glory among the nations, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength, ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name.

Human beings are to recognize God’s glory, honor God’s glory, declare God’s glory, praise God’s glory, reflect God’s glory and live for God’s glory. How do we as Jesus’ followers give glory to God?

We glorify God by worshipping God and God alone. God wants our worship to be motivated by love, thanksgiving, expectation, humility, trust, and joy, not with a sense of obligation.

We glorify God by loving others. Jesus commands us to love others as we love ourselves. Loving people, serving, helping, encouraging, giving to others is a way of bringing glory to God.

We glorify God by growing closer to Christ and becoming like Christ. The Holy Spirit working in and among us, through faith, begins to reform us, to reshape us, to refashion us into the likeness of Christ. God desires for us to become the people he created us to be. And by God’s grace and the power of the Holy Spirit, we can become more like Christ in our hearts and minds and actions.

We glorify God by serving God and others with our gifts, talents and God given abilities. It is important to discover our gifts and talents and use them in the work of God’s Kingdom.

We glorify God by sharing our faith in God with others. Jesus does not want us to hide the gospel under a basket. Jesus commands us to share the good news of Jesus, to tell others about him. We recall the great commission: *“Go into all the world and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always to the close of the age.”*

I thank pastor Rick Warren for his insights.

To God in Christ be the glory,

Rev. Alan W. Deuel

We glorify God by