

Going Deeper April 11, 2010

Our Purpose: To the Praise of His Glory

Rick Warren's book the *Purpose Driven Life* spent years on the NY Times Bestsellers' List. The first sentence in chapter 1 of the book states a truth about your purpose here on earth: "It's not about you." Interestingly most people, including Christians, don't live like this. *The Purpose Driven Life* topped the charts because people want to find answers to life's biggest questions: "What is my purpose?" "Why am I here?" While Rick Warren's book is very well written and contains great stories to illustrate the author's points you don't need to go to the bookstore to read about your purpose. You don't have to go any farther than the Bible to find your purpose in this life. Scripture is very clear that all men have a purpose. You were created for a purpose. Your purpose is not a well-hidden secret. It doesn't require that you read volumes of books to discover it. Jesus wants you to know about your purpose. Your purpose is different from your vocation, your hobbies, your talents and your abilities. We each have unique combinations of those things that make us who God created us to be. Those unique combinations make us who we are, but they don't change our purpose. Jesus came and died for you to restore you to your true purpose.

Read Ephesians 1.

Group Discussion:

- 1) What do you think your purpose is in this life?
- 2) What is the purpose of man in general?
- 3) Is the *intended* purpose of a Christian different from other men and women? Why or why not?
- 4) Read Luke 19:37-40. What do Jesus' words in this passage reveal?
- 5) Read Eph. 1:5-6, 11-12 & 13-14 and Romans 9:22-23. Why did God redeem us?
- 6) What reasons can be found in Eph. 1:18-23 for praising God and bringing him glory?
- 7) Read Luke 17:11-19. What did Jesus say about the one man who returned praising God and giving thanks?

Life Application:

- 8) How do you display praise for the glory of Jesus in your own life?
- 9) Read Eph. 4:1. How are you following Paul's plea? How could you do this better?
- 10) Read Psalm 34:1-3. Focus on the message of the passage this week. Spend more time praising God and living to bring him glory.