

# LIVE ON PURPOSE

Part 4 of IMITATE ME. 2 Timothy 3:10-11.  
Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. October 15, 2023.

## BEGIN WITH THE END IN MIND

**The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People by Steven Covey impacted me.**

- Chapter 2 helped me become much more intentional.

It's incredibly easy to get caught up in an activity trap, in the busyness of life, to work harder and harder at climbing the ladder of success only to discover it's leaning against the wrong wall (The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. Steven Covey. p. 142).

**We all need to know our purpose in life.**

- Living on purpose gives us drive, meaning, and energizes our prayers.

## THE APOSTLE PAUL LIVED ON PURPOSE

**Timothy had closely observed Paul's "aim in life," his purpose:**

2 Timothy 3:10-11 (ESV) You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, 11 my persecutions and sufferings...

**Paul was laser focused because he lived on purpose**

Acts 20:24 (ESV) I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

**He fulfilled his calling and purpose:**

2 Timothy 4:6-8 (ESV) For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

# HOW TO LIVE ON PURPOSE

**We don't have the same apostolic purpose as Paul, but we can live by the same principles that guided him.**

## **Principle One: I will die one day.**

2 Timothy 4:6 (ESV) ... the time of my departure has come

- Best-selling author, Ryan Holliday, writes:

Meditating on your mortality is only depressing if you miss the point. It is in fact a tool to create priority and meaning. It's a tool that generations have used to create real perspective and urgency. To treat our time as a gift and not waste it on the trivial and vain. Death doesn't make life pointless but rather purposeful (<https://dailystoic.com/memento-mori/>).

- The Lord Jesus Christ lived to die. It kept him focused.

Luke 18:31-33 (ESV) And taking the twelve, he said to them, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. 32 For he will be delivered over to the Gentiles and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon. 33 And after flogging him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise."

- Knowing our time is limited keeps us focused on what matters most.

## **Principle Two: I live for God.**

2 Timothy 4:6 (ESV) I am already being poured out as a drink offering...

- This is a metaphor from the old covenant sacrificial system. It symbolizes worship and offering one's whole life to God.

Philippians 1:20-21 (ESV) ... it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. 21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

- A godless life may be full of great experiences, but it will prove worthless.

Ecclesiastes 1:14 (ESV) I have seen everything that is done under the sun (without God), and behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind.

- Everyone lives for something. Do I live for God?

### **Principle Three: I do God's will.**

2 Timothy 4:7 (ESV) 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

- Paul uses three phrases with one meaning: I did God's will.
- We're not called to be apostles like Paul, but we are called to do God's will.
- Everyday obedience isn't a cop out or easy.

Changing the world can be a way of actually avoiding the opportunities we have every day, right where God has placed us, to glorify and enjoy him and to enrich the lives of others (Horton, Michael. Ordinary: Sustainable Faith in a Radical, Restless World (pp. 15-16). Zondervan. Kindle Edition).

1 Corinthians 10:31 (ESV) So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

### **Principle Four: I have an eternal perspective.**

2 Timothy 4:8 (ESV) Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

- Paul's aim in life wasn't temporary success, but eternal rewards.
- When it's hard to live for God, tell myself, *"I'm prepping for eternity."*

Colossians 3:1-4 (ESV) If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

# SMALL GROUPS GUIDE

## GET STARTED

- Which college football team do you cheer for? Why?
- What did you pray for during this week?

## DIVE IN

- Review the study guide. What were Pastor Peter's main ideas, insights, or Bible passages related to living with integrity? Read 2 Timothy 4:6-8. If possible compare Bible versions to gain insights and clarity.
- Paul knew his execution was close, so his every word is significant. What are some ways the metaphor of being poured out as a wine offering (verse 6) shapes your thinking about your purpose in life?
- Peter talked about God's call to live a mundane/ordinary life of faithfulness rather than a radical one. Discuss what this looks like and how it differs from Paul's apostolic purpose. Is it wrong to seek to have a larger influence for Christ? How would we know that's our calling?
- Discuss the ways in which having an eternal perspective provides focus and resilience to live faithfully even when life is hard.

## MAKE IT WORK FOR YOU

- Share your purpose in life. How did you discern it?
- Read this article on knowing God's purpose: [livingontheedge.org/2022/05/09/scriptures-that-reveal-gods-purpose/](https://livingontheedge.org/2022/05/09/scriptures-that-reveal-gods-purpose/)

## PRAY TOGETHER

Review the four principles of a purpose-driven life. As a group, pray through each principle, one at a time while asking for more grace to embrace and practice each one. Turn Psalm 57:2 into your prayer.