

The Meaning of Life

by Mitch Kuhn

Introduction

Why? It is such a small word that asks a very deep question. As we go through our lives, we experience so many different things, such as pain, pleasure, happiness, sadness, joy, sorrow and so on. At some point everyone needs to ask the question, why? Why is this happening to me? Why am I here? What is the point of all of this?

Theologians, philosophers, and common people have all asked these questions for centuries. Understanding the reason for doing something is such a key part of motivation. Parents often tell their children to do this or that because "I said so". The child has no understanding, they just obey because they are told and under authority. At some point, the child wants to know why. It is vitally important that children learn "why" so they can mature and become wise.

The same is true for us as a follower of Christ. We do things because God says so for a season, but at some point we need to understand why. This gives us a better understanding of His character and a deeper appreciation for his master plan for all of creation. God tells us in the scriptures his reasons for everything he does. We may not know the specific reason for a given event, but we can know the intent of his grand plan and the end goal.

Before we can understand the meaning of life, we first must be given faith in The one true God and his son Jesus Christ.

(Heb 11:6 NKJV) But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

This study will explain more:

<http://tryingthespirits.com/2012-05/2nd-milk-doctrine-faith-toward-god/>

We have to believe that the scriptures are the word of God and reliable to reveal the truth of God.

In this study I'm going to be teaching with the assumption that God's word

is truth and that you as the reader have complete faith in the scriptures. If you are still struggling with this, then I recommend you review the studies found below. The Churches of this world do not have the truth of God, but they do a good job of explaining the reliability of the scriptures.

<http://tryingthespirits.com/2012-06/is-the-bible-reliable/>

Once you believe that the Word of God is truth, then we must rely on the scriptures to give us answers and not get caught up in our own understanding.

(Pro 3:5 NKJV) Trust in the LORD with all your heart, **And lean not on your own understanding;**

(Pro 3:6 NKJV) In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

The ways of God are higher than our natural minds can understand, so at first God's explanation about the meaning of life seems foolish to us.

Isa 55:8 For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

Isa 55:9 For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

(1Co 2:14 NKJV) But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, **for they are foolishness to him;** nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

At our appointed time God will give us the mind of Christ and cause us to understand his ways.

1Co 2:16 For "WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD THAT HE MAY INSTRUCT HIM?" **But we have the mind of Christ.**

1 Corinthians 2:9 is often quoted to perpetuate the idea that God's ways are unknowable, but verse 10 makes the truth of the matter known.

1Co 2:9 But as it is written: "EYE HAS NOT SEEN, NOR EAR HEARD, NOR HAVE ENTERED INTO THE HEART OF MAN THE THINGS WHICH GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM."

1Co 2:10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

In this study I'm going to explain with boldness and authority the purposes of God as He has revealed in the scriptures. This is the example that Christ gave us to follow.

Mat 7:28 And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching,

Mat 7:29 **for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.**

(1Jn 4:17 NKJV) Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have **boldness** in the day of judgment; **because as He is, so are we in this world.**

Christ works through his Body, the true Church, and sends his followers to preach the truth to make his ways known.

(Rom 10:14 NKJV) How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

(Rom 10:15 NKJV) And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO PREACH THE GOSPEL OF PEACE, WHO BRING GLAD TIDINGS OF GOOD THINGS!"

This passage in Romans comes from Isaiah 52:7

(Isa 52:7 NKJV) How beautiful upon the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who proclaims peace, Who brings glad tidings of good things, Who proclaims salvation, Who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

Just as Paul demonstrated, the truth is revealed through preaching the Spirit behind the letters of the scripture, not through human wisdom of persuasive words.

1Co 2:4 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,

As we go through the scriptures line by line, and precept upon precept, God's spirit will make the truth known to you, if it is your appointed time. If you have yet to study the milk doctrines, then I suggest you do so, because you will not fully understand the meaning of life until you understand the milk of the word and are weaned from it.

<http://tryingthespirits.com/milk-doctrines/>

(Isa 28:9 NKJV) "**Whom will he teach knowledge? And whom will he make to understand the message? Those just weaned from milk?**

Those just drawn from the breasts?

(Isa 28:10 NKJV) For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, line upon line, Here a little, there a little."

Preachers and teachers of the truth can show you what the scriptures say, but you also have to study it for yourself. Look up the verses in this study and ask questions. The diligent will be rewarded with understanding.

Act 17:11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, **and searched the scriptures** daily, whether those things were so.

(1Jn 4:1 NKJV) Beloved, do not believe every spirit, **but test the spirits, whether they are of God**; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

(Jer 29:13 NKJV) And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

The Mystery Revealed

God's purposes have been hidden in a mystery since the times of the ages. The ages are the times during which God is doing his work and accomplishing his plan. This study explains in greater detail:

<http://tryingthespirits.com/2012-09/ages-eons/>

(Rom 16:25 NKJV) Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, **according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began (times of the ages)**

This mystery, the meaning of life, is being revealed now by the scriptures. The truth is being revealed so that we would be obedient to the faith, the faith of Jesus Christ.

(Rom 16:26 NKJV) but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, **for obedience to the faith—**

Gal 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by **the faith of Jesus Christ**, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified **by the faith of Christ**, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

Ok, so there is a mystery of God's purpose that is being revealed, so we can be obedient, but why? What's the point?

The point of all creation and everything that happens is explained in Colossians 1:27....to make known the riches of God's glory.

(Col 1:26 NKJV) the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, **but now has been revealed to His saints.**

(Col 1:27 NKJV) **To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory** of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

This same purpose is stated many times in many different ways throughout the scripture.

(Exo 9:16 NKJV) But indeed for this purpose I have raised you up, **that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.**

(Psa 86:9 NKJV) All nations whom You have made Shall come and worship before You, O Lord, And shall glorify Your name.

(Zep 2:11 NKJV) The LORD will be awesome to them, For He will reduce to nothing all the gods of the earth; **People shall worship Him, Each one from his place, Indeed all the shores of the nations.**

So God is working through Christ and Christ's Body to make the riches of his glory known to all of creation. When the value and greatness of his power and glory are known, all people will worship and rejoice.

This was the purpose for Paul's labor, to present everyone perfect in Christ by teaching the truth and making all to know the mystery and be obedient to the truth.

(Col 1:28 NKJV) Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.

(Col 1:29 NKJV) To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

I've now shown you God's purpose in the scriptures, but it's probably still pretty abstract not striking an emotional cord. It's one thing to hear the answer and it's another to deeply understand and appreciate what God is doing. So now I'll show you the scriptures that explain the tremendous benefit of what God is doing for us.

Why is it Good to Worship and Praise?

I've often heard people say, "So what are we going to do for all of eternity? Sit on puffy clouds playing harps and singing to God?...that sounds boring". Worship and praise are terribly misunderstood.

Here is a quote from C.S. Lewis that explains praise so well.

"But the most obvious fact about praise -- whether of God or anything -- strangely escaped me. I thought of it in terms of compliment, approval, or the giving of honor. I had never noticed that all enjoyment spontaneously overflows into praise. ... The world rings with praise -- lovers praising their mistresses, readers their favorite poet, walkers praising the countryside, players praising their favorite game. ... I think we delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not merely expresses but completes the enjoyment; it is its appointed consummation."

— C.S. Lewis

Praise is a natural result of enjoying anything in life. When we truly experience God and the benefits of obeying his commands, we will uncontrollably respond with praise and worship. So by God showing us the riches of his glory, he is actually giving us a tremendous gift, the most enjoyable and satisfying gift in existence.

(Psa 37:4 NKJV) Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.

If we are delighted in the Lord, then the desires of our heart align with his will.

(Psa 42:1 NKJV) **To the Chief Musician. A Contemplation of the Sons of Korah.** As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God.

(Psa 42:2 NKJV) My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?

Psa 63:1 A Psalm of David When He Was in the Wilderness of

Judah. O God, You *are* my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water.

(Psa 16:11 NKJV) You will show me the path of life; In Your presence *is* fullness of joy; At Your right hand *are* pleasures forevermore.

(Psa 34:8 NKJV) Oh, taste and see that the LORD *is* good; Blessed *is* the man *who* trusts in Him!

(Psa 36:7 NKJV) How precious *is* Your lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings.

(Psa 36:8 NKJV) They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of Your house, And You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures.

(Psa 43:4 NKJV) Then I will go to the altar of God, To God my exceeding joy; And on the harp I will praise You, O God, my God.

(Psa 119:103 NKJV) How sweet are Your words to my taste, *Sweeter* than honey to my mouth!

(Job 22:25 NKJV) Yes, the Almighty will be your gold And your precious silver;

(Job 22:26 NKJV) For then you will have your delight in the Almighty, And lift up your face to God.

(Mat 13:44 NKJV) "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

When God sends his Spirit to us, we will understand the truth, and when that truth works in our life, we will manifest all the fruit of the spirit...one of which is joy.

(Joh 16:13 NKJV) However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

(Gal 5:22 NKJV) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, **joy**, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

(Gal 5:23 NKJV) gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

The most generous and loving thing God can do for us is to cause us to understand the greatness of his glory, which will result in our enjoyment and cause uncontrollable gratitude and praise.

God is love, and therefore does not seek to serve himself, but rather the good of others. When God commands worship of himself he is seeking our good, because he is the greatest treasure that exists.

(1Co 13:5 NKJV) does not behave rudely, **does not seek its own**, is not provoked, thinks no evil;

(1Co 10:24 NKJV) Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's well-being.

(Php 2:4 NKJV) Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, **but also for the interests of others.**

Therefore the most loving thing we can do is share the truth with others. Obedience to God's ways is not a burden; it is the greatest treasure that exists.

(1Jn 5:3 NKJV) For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

Worship and Faith

(Heb 11:6 NKJV) But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

If we are going to worship God, we have to understand who he is and have faith in his promises. God is pleased when we are obedient and appreciate who he is and what he does.

(Mat 22:36 NKJV) "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"

(Mat 22:37 NKJV) Jesus said to him, 'YOU SHALL **LOVE** (G25) THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.'

(Mat 22:38 NKJV) This is the first and great commandment.

There are different words for "Love" in the Greek language, and the word used in the verses above is:

G25

ἀγαπάω

agapaō

1Jn 5:3 For this is the **love** (G25) of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

God does command obedience, but this obedience cannot be done begrudgingly or without heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for his ways. Joy is a mandatory part of the obedience.

(Mat 13:44 NKJV) "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for **joy** over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

(Mat 13:45 NKJV) "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls,

(Mat 13:46 NKJV) who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Here is a quote from John Piper that explains this so well. While Mr. Piper does not understand the truth of God's word, the Lord has caused him to make a very true statement in his book "Desiring God".

"Saving faith is the confidence that if you sell all you have and forsake all sinful pleasures, the hidden treasure of holy joy will satisfy your deepest desires. Saving faith is the heartfelt conviction not only that Christ is reliable, but also that he is desirable. It is the confidence that He will come through with his promises and that what he promises is more to be desired than all the world" (pg. 73).

No one naturally considers God and his ways the greatest treasure to be pursued above all else...quite the opposite. We think the message of the cross is foolish and love the things of the world instead.

(1Co 1:18 NKJV) For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing...

(1Co 2:14 NKJV) But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

When we all first love the world, we do not know the love of the father.

(1Jn 2:15 NKJV) Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

(1Jn 2:16 NKJV) For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

We seek to find joy and fulfillment through the lusts of the world. We follow after the wisdom of men as we worship a multitude of idols. This study goes into greater detail about how we seek to find meaning in life and answers to our problems through things of the world.

<http://tryingthespirits.com/2013-01/why-am-i-significant-part-1/>

We are all created subject to vanity which forces us to chase after idols that will not satisfy, and destined to be destroyed in due time.

Rom 8:20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,

We must all live by these words written in Ecclesiastes. We pursue whatever we desire, yet when we look back we see that it was only vanity.

(Ecc 2:9 NKJV) So I became great and excelled more than all who were before me in Jerusalem. Also my wisdom remained with me.

(Ecc 2:10 NKJV) Whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, For my heart rejoiced in all my labor; And this was my reward from all my labor.

(Ecc 2:11 NKJV) **Then I looked on all the works that my hands had done And on the labor in which I had toiled; And indeed all was vanity and grasping for the wind.** There was no profit under the sun.

I have personally had this experience. I spent the majority of my life pursuing the lusts of the world. I ran after excessive physical fitness and worshiped my own body, I idolized romance, I loved the adrenaline rush of extreme sports and competition, and I sought wealth and great success in business. One by one the Lord destroyed these idols.

None of my relationships worked out, I became ill and injured my back ending my athletic pursuits, and was met with failure after failure in business. As idol after idol was proved to be worthless, I slowly began to develop faith in God and started to see the value of spiritual riches that cannot be destroyed.

(Mic 5:13 NKJV) Your carved images I will also cut off, And your sacred pillars from your midst; You shall no more worship the work of your hands;

(Mat 7:24 NKJV) "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I **will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:**

(Mat 7:25 NKJV) and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

(Mat 7:26 NKJV) "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand:

(Mat 7:27 NKJV) and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

When the storms come, it is manifest that our lives are built upon the sand, that we trust in a multitude of idols. We suffer great loss, and for some in this age we will be given the faith to begin building upon the rock.

(Mat 6:19 NKJV) "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;

(Mat 6:20 NKJV) but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

(Mat 6:21 NKJV) For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

God is intentionally causing us to first worship these idols, so that he can display their weakness and in the contrast we will see the greatness of his glory. God will not be mocked and his word will accomplish its purpose. In due time, only he will be praised and only he will have glory.

(Isa 42:8 NKJV) I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images.

As we come back to the importance of faith: we must have it to please God, because his plan takes time to unfold. Initially his plan sounds foolish and looks hopeless. Faith is required to believe that God will do what he has promised when we cannot see the end result.

(Heb 11:1 ESV) Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Faith is a gift given by God. It is not something that we can conjure up on our own. We only have as much as we are given, no more, no less.

(Eph 2:8 ESV) For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; **it is the gift of God,**

(Eph 2:9 ESV) not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

(Rom 12:3 ESV) For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, **each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.**

Our faith is developed over time as God takes us through great trials and delivers us from what is impossible for the flesh to overcome. This is typified in the Old Testament when God delivers Israel over and over. From the 10 plagues that deliver Israel from Egyptian bondage, to the parting of the Red Sea, to countless victories in battle, such as the walls of Jericho falling and Gideon's army of 300 men defeating tens of thousands.

God demonstrates over and over that he alone is in control of everything, and that no matter what the circumstances, He will be victorious and prove his strength and power.

(1Pe 1:6 NKJV) In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,
(1Pe 1:7 NKJV) that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

(1Pe 4:12 NKJV) Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you;
(1Pe 4:13 NKJV) but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, **you may also be glad with exceeding joy.**

This is God's process: He causes us to be enslaved to the worship of idols; he then manifests the weakness of those idols. He gives us faith in his power and great worth when each trial comes, as more of his glory is revealed and we are glad with exceeding joy...resulting in uncontrollable praise of his glory.

Expectations

I'm now going to explain what you should expect on this journey, now that you know God's ultimate purpose is to reveal his glory to all of mankind.

God is going to show us that we are all sinful beasts and not worthy of any glory. He will also show that everything in the world is worthless compared to Him.

Ecc 3:18 I said in mine heart concerning the estate of the sons of men, that God might manifest them, and that they might see that they themselves are beasts.

It is quite a painful and difficult process to bring us to this understanding. In the Book of Job we see God work through Satan to take away all Job has, including his health.

(Job 1:13 NKJV) Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house;

(Job 1:14 NKJV) and a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them,

(Job 1:15 NKJV) when the Sabeans raided them and took them away indeed they have killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!"

(Job 1:16 NKJV) While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants, and consumed them; and I alone have escaped to tell you!"

(Job 1:17 NKJV) While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three bands, raided the camels and took them away, yes, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!"

(Job 1:18 NKJV) While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house,

(Job 1:19 NKJV) and suddenly a great wind came from across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they are dead; and I alone have escaped to tell you!"

(Job 2:6 NKJV) And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your hand, but spare his life."

(Job 2:7 NKJV) So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD, and struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.

(Job 2:8 NKJV) And he took for himself a potsherd with which to scrape himself while he sat in the midst of the ashes.

Then for the next 38 chapters Job deals with his friends who are miserable comforters and only make matters worse. Job also grumbles against God and maintains his righteousness.

(Job 27:2 NKJV) "As God lives, who has taken away my justice, And the Almighty, who has made my soul bitter,

(Job 27:3 NKJV) As long as my breath is in me, And the breath of God in my nostrils,

(Job 27:4 NKJV) My lips will not speak wickedness, Nor my tongue utter deceit.

(Job 27:5 NKJV) Far be it from me That I should say you are right; Till I die I will not put away my integrity from me.

(Job 27:6 NKJV) My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go; My heart shall not reproach me as long as I live.

When the Lord finally speaks, Job's attitude changes immediately.

(Job 40:1 NKJV) Moreover the LORD answered Job, and said:

(Job 40:2 NKJV) "Shall the one who contends with the Almighty correct Him? He who rebukes God, let him answer it."

(Job 40:3 NKJV) Then Job answered the LORD and said:

(Job 40:4 NKJV) "Behold, I am vile; What shall I answer You? I lay my hand over my mouth.

(Job 40:5 NKJV) Once I have spoken, but I will not answer; Yes, twice, but I will proceed no further."

(Job 40:6 NKJV) Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said:

(Job 40:7 NKJV) "Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me:

(Job 40:8 NKJV) "Would you indeed annul My judgment? Would you condemn Me that you may be justified?"

Everyone of us must go through this process to see that we are vile and God alone is to be praised. The apostle Paul learns the very same lesson through his trials and tribulation.

Rom 7:18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

Paul explains in Romans 7 that the Lord gives the law to show us that we cannot keep it. We are given the knowledge of what to do, but lack the power to carry it out. This is quite humbling and manifests our total weakness.

(Rom 7:14 NKJV) For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin.

(Rom 7:15 NKJV) For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do.

(Rom 7:16 NKJV) If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good.

(Rom 7:17 NKJV) But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

We all at first build our life upon worthless pursuits and disobedience. In due time God will send us trials to make that quite clear.

(Mat 7:24 NKJV) "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:

(Mat 7:25 NKJV) and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

(Mat 7:26 NKJV) "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand:

(Mat 7:27 NKJV) and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

We are given the details of what exactly Paul had built his life upon, before he was shown it was worthless.

(Php 3:3 NKJV) For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,

(Php 3:4 NKJV) though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so:

(Php 3:5 NKJV) circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee;

(Php 3:6 NKJV) concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

(Php 3:7 NKJV) **But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.**

(Php 3:8 NKJV) Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as **rubbish (dung)**, that I may gain Christ

These words of Paul are very glorifying to God, because he sees and appreciates the worth of Christ and desires to pursue it above all else. Paul lived out this parable.

(Mat 13:44 NKJV) "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

If we look at Paul's other writings, it is quite obvious where his treasure lies.

(2Co 4:16 NKJV) Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.

(2Co 4:17 NKJV) For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,

(2Co 4:18 NKJV) while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal (age lasting).

This study explains what Paul means by Age lasting, translated as eternal.

http://www.iswasandwillbe.com/What_Is_Life_Aionios.php

(Col 3:1 NKJV) If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

(Col 3:2 NKJV) Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

(Col 3:3 NKJV) For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

(Col 3:4 NKJV) When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

(Col 3:5 NKJV) Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

(Gal 6:7 NKJV) Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

(Gal 6:8 NKJV) For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

(Gal 6:9 NKJV) And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

(1Ti 6:6 NKJV) Now godliness with contentment is great gain.

(1Ti 6:7 NKJV) For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

(1Ti 6:8 NKJV) And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.

(1Ti 6:9 NKJV) But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.

(1Ti 6:10 NKJV) For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

(1Ti 6:11 NKJV) But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.

Paul was dying to the love of the world and growing is his appreciation and love for the things of the spirit of God. His greatest joy was to serve others and lead them to Christ.

(Php 1:21 NKJV) For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

(Php 1:22 NKJV) But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell.

(Php 1:23 NKJV) For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.

(Php 1:24 NKJV) Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you.

(Php 1:25 NKJV) And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith,

(Php 1:26 NKJV) that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again.

(1Th 2:19 NKJV) For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?

(1Th 2:20 NKJV) For you are our glory and joy.

Paul's life became a pursuit of the most valuable things in existence, the treasure of Christ.

(Col 2:1 NKJV) For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh,

(Col 2:2 NKJV) that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ,

(Col 2:3 NKJV) in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Obtaining this treasure does require sacrifice, but what we gain is worth far more than what we give up.

(Mar 10:28 NKJV) Then Peter began to say to Him, **"See, we have left all and followed You."**

(Mar 10:29 NKJV) So Jesus answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's,

(Mar 10:30 NKJV) who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life (aionios life).

This article explains the hundredfold reward.

<http://tryingthespirits.com/2012-03/how-much-is-a-hundredfold/>

This is a quote from the above study.

"Here is another example of how much better the spirit is than the flesh. We're going to calculate how tall a stack of paper would be if it is 100 fold as tall as one sheet.

Starting with a sheet of paper 0.1 millimeter thick, doubling the thickness one hundred times results in a stack **13.4 billion light-years tall**. It would reach from Earth to beyond the most distant galaxy we can see with the most powerful telescopes — almost to the edge of the observable Universe."

It is painful to give up things in this life for the treasure of Christ, because we are still in these bodies of weak flesh. We can't always see the reward that is coming if we endure faithfully. This is where the gift of faith is required, to believe and hope for what we cannot see but know to be true.

(Heb 11:1 ESV) Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Conclusion

Now that you know God's purpose for this life, the challenge lies in enduring to the end faithfully. There are going to be countless temptations and cares of the world to draw you away from the riches of Christ. All we can do is pray that the Lord gives us the strength and faith to be obedient to the end.

Christ explains the various things that happen to us when we hear the truth. We all have to live out each and every one of these steps in due time, but only some will be given the gift to be good soil in this life.

(Luk 8:13 NKJV) But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away.

(Luk 8:14 NKJV) Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.

(Luk 8:15 NKJV) But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

Now it is time to fight the good fight, taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. This is going to be a raging war in your heavens. Here are some studies that will help prepare you for this great battle.

First you need to understand that God is going to set you up to fall. He is going to put you in situations to manifest your sin so that it can be dealt with and burned out. This is called "seeking an occasion" and it happens to us over and over. One we realize what is happening we can respond properly and labor to overcome rather than being bitter and discouraged by our own stumbling and disobedience.

<http://tryingthespirits.com/2012-10/how-the-lord-seeks-an-occasion-against-us/>

Then you need to know how to wage spiritual warfare with the sin that is manifest in your life.

<http://tryingthespirits.com/2011-06/how-to-wage-spiritual-warfare/>

I hope and pray that this study will be used to help you see the true value of God and the riches of Christ.