

# **ILLINOIS LUTHERAN CONFERENCE**

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The psalmist David wrote by inspiration of God: "LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it *is*; *that* I may know how frail I *am*. Behold, thou hast made my days *as* an handbreadth; and mine age *is* as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state *is* altogether vanity. Selah." (Psalm 39:4-5) Accordingly, when we consider that our lifetime on earth is relatively brief, each of us needs to know the answer to the question: **What is the purpose of my life here on earth?**

The Holy Bible supplies us with the correct answer to that question, and perfect clarity regarding its related issues, as we will presently consider.

**"The days of our years *are* threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength *they be* fourscore years, yet *is* their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away."** (Psalm 90:10)

*Comment: Despite all the advances in medicine, the truth remains that the average human life-span in this world is between 70 and 80 years. Hence, we all need to be prepared for what comes after life in this world, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." (2 Corinthians 5:10) Keeping the aforementioned facts in mind, it's evident that our life's purpose in this world is NOT simply to serve self, despite unbelieving society's emphasis on pleasing one's sinful flesh to-the-max.*

**"For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works."** (Matthew 16:26-27)

*Comment: The Lord Jesus makes it clear that each human being's future state is much more important than gaining the entire world's wealth. Indeed, "They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches; None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him: (For the redemption of their soul is precious, and it ceaseth for ever:) That he should still live for ever, and not see corruption. For he seeth that wise men die, likewise the fool and the brutish person perish, and leave their wealth to others. Their inward thought is, that their houses shall continue for ever, and their dwelling places to all generations; they call their lands after their own names. Nevertheless man being in honour abideth not: he is like the beasts that perish. This their way is their folly: yet their posterity approve their sayings. Selah." (Psalm 49:6-13) Take it to heart that Jesus' visible return in glory to judge the world is coming, at which time He will reward every man according to his works, for one's works are evidence of the presence of a living, genuine faith in the Lord Jesus Christ or the lack thereof, for "as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." (James 2:26) It is utter foolishness to set one's heart upon one's self and the things of this world; rather, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." (Acts 16:31)*

**"Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your**

**life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.” (James 4:13-15)**

*Comment: It is foolish and arrogant when sinful human beings confidently state their plans to gain worldly wealth as if they can count on completing such goals, for the Lord God is in fact the Giver of life and all good things. Yes, it is written, “Do not err, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.” (James 1:16-17) Accordingly, we ALL need the Lord God; we ALL need to know the Lord God; and, we ALL need the salvation of body and soul that the Lord God supplies, because “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. [And] the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (1 John 1:8; Romans 6:23) Thus, our life’s purpose in this world is to come to know the Lord God and to serve Him in loving gratitude for all that He has done, still does, and will yet do for us.*

**“Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death.” (Proverbs 11:4)**

*Comment: Note well that worldly wealth is of no profit when we must stand before the Lord God on Judgment Day and face His wrath over sin; we NEED PERFECT RIGHTEOUSNESS if we would avoid the never-ending fiery death of hell, “Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.” (Romans 3:22-26; Ephesians 2:8-9) Oh, God’s grace and mercy should certainly move us to desire to love and serve Him in gratefulness for all that He has done and still does for us— that’s our life’s purpose: TO KNOW, LOVE, AND SERVE THE LORD GOD!*

**“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)**

*Comment: Fellow Christians, God has graciously gifted us with faith in Jesus Christ or we would not be Christians, nor would we be headed for heaven when we depart this life; rather, without God-given faith in the Lord Jesus Christ we would be unbelievers headed for hell, for “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” (Mark 16:16) Furthermore, think about the immense cost of our redemption: “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.” (1 Peter 1:18-21) Hence, we are the Lord God’s purchased possessions, and as such the purpose of our life here on earth is to KNOW, LOVE, AND SERVE THE LORD GOD rather than serving ourselves.*

**“After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as *it is* in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.” (Matthew 6:9-13)**

*Comment: Observe in the Lord’s Prayer that we pray to our heavenly Father: “Hallowed be thy name”; we do NOT pray, “hallowed be my name.” We pray to our heavenly Father: “thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.” Thus, we are to serve the Lord God rather than serving ourselves. Indeed, “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.” (1 Corinthians 10:31) Hence, I repeat what was mentioned earlier: God’s grace and mercy should certainly move us to desire to love and serve Him in gratefulness for all that He has done and still does for us— that’s our life’s purpose: TO KNOW, LOVE, AND SERVE THE LORD GOD!*

**“Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” (Matthew 6:31-33)**

*Comment: Jesus spoke the foregoing words, thereby instructing us not to worry about the things we need for life in this world, nor to place our main emphasis on such worldly things; rather, we are to seek first God’s kingdom and His perfect righteousness which He supplies us in Christ. Yes, we are to serve the Lord God, knowing He will see to it that we have all we require for this body and life. The Lord will bless our labors when we keep Him first in our life.*

Let us never forget that life in this world is a time to come to know the Lord God, that is, to come to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, “the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14), and to then live life lovingly serving Him, “For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.” (Colossians 2:9) Doing so, we show that we as individuals know the correct answer to the question: **What is the purpose of my life here on earth?** After all, when tempted by the devil, Jesus Himself said, “Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.” (Matthew 4:10) Let us therefore lovingly serve the Lord God, thereby showing, “We love him, because he first loved us.” (1 John 4:19)

m.e.l.