

FINDING YOUR GOD INTENDED PURPOSE IN LIFE

“LIFE’S BIGGEST DECISION”

We all have to make different kinds of decisions in our lives but the biggest decision of all is whether we are going to live for self or live for God. We all start off life living for self because we don't know any better. But then one day we come to a crossroads, and then, we have to make a decision, the biggest decision of our lives. One road is to continue living to please ourselves and the other road is to start living to please God.

Living to please self can make you temporarily happy but living to please God will make you eternally happy. Which would you prefer, happiness that lasts a little while or happiness that grows fuller and deeper for ever and ever. It is the great contrast of life. It is like the contrast of night and day, darkness and light.

The bible brings out the contrast, let's look at verses that show this. In Hebrews chapter 11 verse 25, speaking of Moses it says, “He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.” The AV says, “The pleasures of sin for a season.” Moses made a choice between fleeting pleasures or pleasures that only last for a little while and doing the will of God. A contrast is found in Proverbs 4:18. “The path of the righteous is like the morning sun, shining even brighter till the full light of day.” I like how the AV translates it better. “But the path of the just (those who have chosen God's way) is as the shining light, that shines more and more unto the perfect day.”

So what are “The pleasures of sin?” Ephesians 2:3 gives us a good idea, “All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts.” In other words, finding pleasure in gratifying ourselves. Pleasing ourselves regardless of whether what we are doing is pleasing God or not. We go along the path of life happily, not necessarily doing any big bad things, but still living to please ourselves and pleasing others it pleases us to please, when suddenly, we come to a crossroads. Now we have to make a decision, which way will we go?

We discover the crossroad is really, “The Cross of Christ” What are we going to do with Jesus who died for us and rose again for us. He died to save us from a life of self living, he died to wash away and forgive all our acts of selfishness. He rose again to give us victory over self living that we might live the rest of our lives for the glory of God. We have to decide which way we will go. It's a bit like being very thirsty, extremely thirsty, and you are given a choice of drinking a delightful tasting poisoned drink that will give you real pleasure but will slowly be poisoning you to death or a life giving satisfying drink that keeps on satisfying unto eternal life. Sadly millions of people are choosing the pleasing poisoned drink.

Then there are some Christians who try to live a Christian life with one foot pleasing self and the other foot pleasing God and struggle to walk both paths at the same time. What a miserable joyless experience that is. We need to remember that becoming a Christian is not just having our sins forgiven, not just going to heaven when we die, not just God looking after us in this life on earth but a very real decision to live a Christian life. A decision to live a Christian life style. To deny self and live to please God and prove the grace and power of God in our lives. A decision to regularly meet with other believers to encourage one another. Just as it says in Hebrews 10:24,25. "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another ---."

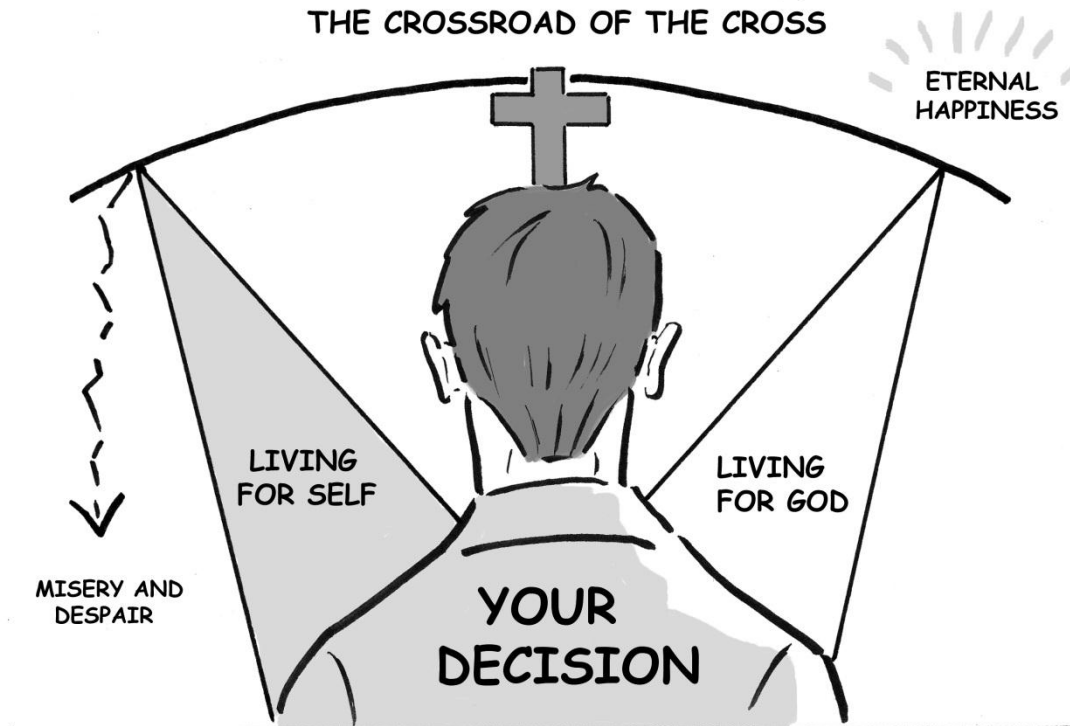
A man asked me once, "If I become a Christian, will I have to love God more than I do my family?" I answered, "Yes, but you will love your family better if you love God first. We are not always nice to the people that we love so loving God first will make us more kind , more patient , less likely to get angry etc, because the love of God is in our hearts.

Those of us who have made this big important decision need to continue to renew it whenever we feel we may have begun to stray a little. Anyone reading this lecture who feels they haven't ever made this decision, I would encourage you to think deeply about it and if you are convinced it is the right thing for you to do, then humbly tell God that as best you know how you now surrender yourself fully to him.

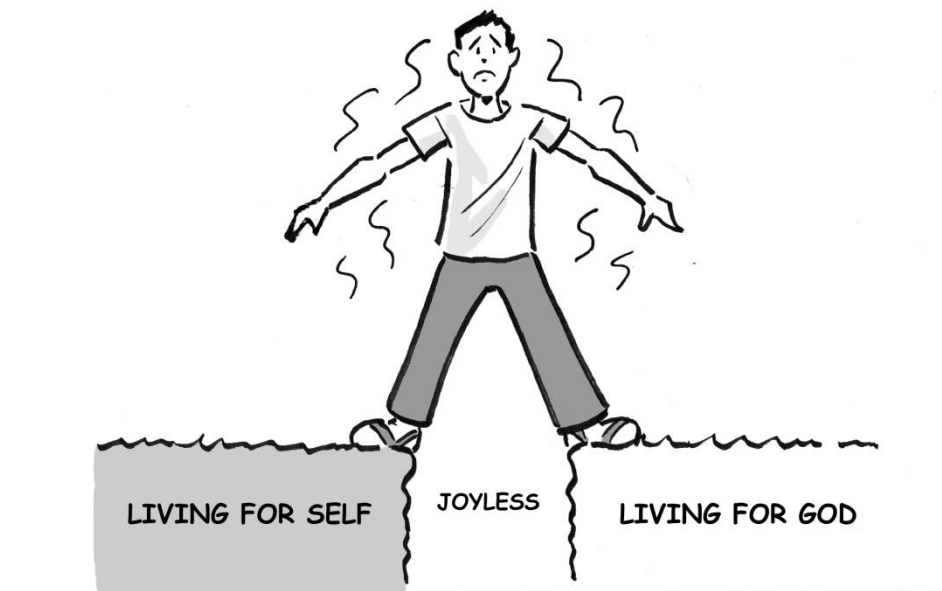
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LIFE'S BIGGEST DECISION

THE CROSSROAD OF THE CROSS



SOME CHRISTIANS TRY TO DO THIS



100% FOR GOD IS THE ONLY SATISFYING ANSWER

FRANK HUTCHINSON