

## PURSuing HIGH PURPOSE

“When God wanted sponges (barnacles) and oysters (clams) He made them and put one on a rock and the other in the mud. God did not make man to be a sponge or an oyster—He made man with feet (to move about and travel) and hands (to work and build); with a head (to think) and a heart (to love). God gave man **HIGH PURPOSE** and said: *“Now go to work: rule over all of creation, be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth”* (Genesis 1)—**Henry Ward Beecher**.

Creation and Bible history are no longer taught in our public schools; and perhaps not taught in private and Christian schools in a way that children grow up with a clear understanding of who they are and God's purpose in creating people in His own image. It may not be taught adequately in Sunday Schools, but Christians need to understand God's purpose and design in creation in order to answer three important questions that will shape their lives for good or bad; and have a fruitful, happy and rewarding experience as you travel the pathway of life. Your choices have consequences either good or bad, so you need to have the right answers to live a happy and fruitful life that pleases Father God and qualifies you to spend eternity in Heaven.

**1—Where are you now?** Every journey has a starting point. Birth was your starting point for being a person. Going to kindergarten or first grade was a starting point for learning. Getting into physical shape may be the starting point for becoming an athlete. Listening to music may be the starting point for becoming a singer or musician. Boy or girl scouts may be the beginning of your love for camping, fishing, hunting or travel. Your Christian journey begins with hearing the Gospel and sensing the Holy Spirit's call to repentance. When you repent and ask Jesus to be the Lord of your life you experience a peace and joy—the starting point for knowing that the Bible is true, that God is alive, that He loves you and that you want to discover and fulfill your **High purpose**.

**2—Do you know God's purpose for your life?** If you are reading this you are a young adult or new Christian. You are facing decisions that will help or hinder the rest of your life. Young adults need to know whether to pursue higher education or learn a trade; whether to prepare for a secular job or Christian service. Choosing a life-time mate and being able to support a family are other critical decisions. As a new or young Christian you want to know God's plan for your life. So at this juncture in your life you need to set regular times for prayer and Bible reading; you need to associate yourself with like-minded people for the benefit of sharing and learning together; and you need to be in church regularly to digest and learn from your pastor's teaching, as well as to experience the presence of God during worship, praise and prayer.

**3—Do you have a plan for achieving that purpose?** Laying a solid foundation for your life may take several years, so don't be impatient. God is watching over you (**Psalm 33**), He will help you grasp the basic Bible truths, and He will help you get answers along the way (**Psalm 32:8**). God knows where you are, what questions need answered first and what you need to know next in the order that will make known your purpose in life. The answers and order may come from sermons, discussions with friends, prayer sessions or Bible study—and they will probably line up with your changing needs and desires as well as your skills and knowledge.

**How did these three questions impact my life?** I went to Sunday School regularly until I was 16 or 17 and believed in God, that He created everything and that Jesus died for my sins. **Q 1**—I was between my Junior and senior years of high school and **I didn't have a purpose or plan** for my life. **Q 2**—hearing about the Navy enlisting future pilots **gave me a plan**. The Navy sent me to college for two quarters before the post-war military cut back and a discharge. This college experience further established my **immediate plan: finish college**—I knew I would have time to study, work to cover expenses, participate in sports and have a limited social life. **Q 3**—At the age of 20, and working in the woods, a log rolled on me and I couldn't breath. God helped two co-workers miraculously roll the log off and I started to breath again. At first I could not open my eyes and I couldn't move a hand or a foot. I knew I was in bad shape and might not make it out of the woods alive. I also knew I wasn't ready to meet God and I didn't want to spend eternity in hell. I made a vow to God that if I lived I would serve

Him all of my life. That moment and that vow was the **starting point for my real life purpose**—to be a Christian and serve God as He guided me on life's pathway.

**Summarizing** how I answered these three basic questions in my life—hearing the Navy was enlisting men to be pilots, I realized **where I was** in life and saw an opportunity. The two quarters of college convinced me that I would have time to study, play sports, work to cover expenses and have a little fun too—a **plan**. An accident led to a vow to pursue God and let Him direct my life—**my real purpose**. A friend's question led to my goal of being a High School coach and teacher. A classmate's suggestion of where to do my practice teaching led me to my life-time companion and my first teaching/coaching job. Several years later God spoke to my mind and moved me from secular education into a career of Christian ministry, management and Missionary travel around the world—**ways that God guides us**.

**Older new Christians** may need to consider providing for their families, and before making major changes take the time to learn Bible principles and become committed to the Christian faith. God may use you as witnesses or shining lights of integrity and moral standards in the secular world; or He may prepare your study and prayer life to engage in spiritual ministry—but that will require time and testing. Whoever you are—young or older—the Psalmist said to wait and trust in the Lord and do good, and He will direct your steps (decisions), and preserve you (**Psalm 37**). God will also answer your prayers, prepare you for service and fulfill your **High Purpose** in life. When troubles come He will save you and perfect or complete your mission in life (**Psalm 138:8**). Depending upon *where* you are now in your walk with God, He will help you know His will and make appropriate plans along the way.

To determine where you are going in life you have to **1) know where you are—the starting point** (age, training, family, job, etc.), **2) know God's will for your life**. **3) have a destination (a goal)**. **4) make decisions** (prayer, godly counsel, opportunities, etc), **5) make adjustments** along the way (as circumstances and God's promptings change). **6) and beginning where you are, take one step at a time**—to reach your destination, thus fulfilling your divine purpose. Making the plan may occur at different stages. For example when you finish High School you may know what career you would like to pursue, and you may know what some of your skills are. If not, this will be the focus of your plan as you leave High School—to decide what you like and what some of your skills are.

If you don't know what to do next you may start college and classes may turn you on to a career to prepare for. If not college, you may get an entry level job to support yourself while researching skilled jobs like sales, auto mechanic, truck driving, medical, armed forces, etc—something that appeals to you and you can qualify to do; and it will provide a good life-time career. Many short term, inexpensive training programs are available in larger cities and/or on the internet. So deciding what career to pursue may be the focus, or a stage, in your planning.

During this research and training period—together with spiritual pursuits and prayer—God may reveal His purpose for your life and change the entire destination; or this may occur at any stage in setting your goal and making your initial plans. Along the way you may realize that God has already been guiding your decisions in subtle or major ways. This is why it is important to pray, read the Bible, be faithful to attend church so God can guide you in major decisions. This will give you assurance that God cares for you, He has a plan for your life, and you will end up doing what He wants you to do as well as what you enjoy doing.

***“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go: I will guide you with My eye.” Ps. 32:8***  
(to be continued)

BarnabasAD