



LIFELINE

LIFE as it WAS MEANT to BE!

by John Piper

You can have confidence in God, confidence in Christ, confidence in the certain purpose that God has for this world — the wise, good, just, holy purpose that God has for this world and your place in it.

Satan's Strategies

Meaning consists in purpose — a good purpose, a wise, just, satisfying purpose or design for you or for the world. So, the whole question is, Does the world, with all of its beauty and ugliness, gladness and groaning, love and hate, pleasure and pain, nobility and vulgarity, kindness and abuse, selfishness and sacrifice — does such a world as ours have a wise, good, just, satisfying purpose under the providence of an all-wise, all-powerful God?

“The meaning of life is to know God, and to enjoy God, and to reflect some of the beauty of God as we know him in Christ.”

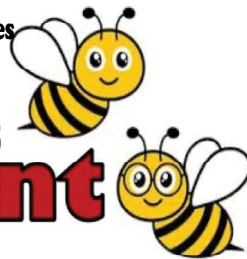
One of the common strategies of Satan, whom you know is a thief and a murderer — he steals truth from the mind; he kills the soul — one of his common strategies is to fixate our mind on such possibilities: *Life is a tale told by an idiot, isn't it? Full of sound and fury, signifying nothing.* Satan doesn't even care if you believe that; he just wants you to be fixated on it — to think about it all the time and wonder if it might be true. He wants to steal from you and me every vestige of confidence that God is wise and good and just and holy, and that God is working everything together for a great purpose.

Know and Enjoy God

So, I pray that you would have power to resist the devil and that I could put a sword, the sword of the Spirit, in your hand, so that you could do battle valiantly and triumphantly against the darkness. The sword of the Spirit is the word of God. When he wrote his book, God knew that you would go through this. God knew about your depression. He knew about your loss. He knew about the fixation of doubt in your mind. And he wrote about these things over and over again in his word to help you and all of us.

current sermon series

**LIFE as it was
meant**



The meaning of life, according to that word, God's word, is to know God as he really is; and to enjoy him and all that he is for us in Christ; and to reflect in this dark world some of the light that he has shown to us when Christ, the very Son of God, died in our place,

precisely that we might know God and enjoy God in spite of our sin; and then one day to see him and know him perfectly unendingly. Let me say it again. The meaning of life is to know God, and to enjoy God, and to reflect some of the beauty of God as we know him in Christ, and one day to see him perfectly and unendingly enjoy him.

The meaning of life now, the purpose of life in this age, is not comfort in this world now, nor escape from suffering now, nor the avoidance of loss now, nor the maximizing of physical pleasures now, nor the amassing of riches now, nor the achievement of any fame now, nor the right to any health now, nor that we would be treated with

continues on page 3





The Carpenters Gift



Grandpa Nybakken loved life, especially when he could play a trick on somebody. At those times his large Norwegian frame would shake with laughter while he feigned innocent surprise, exclaiming, “Oh, forevermore!” But on a cold Saturday in downtown Chicago, God played a trick on him.

Grandpa Nybakken worked as a carpenter. On this particular day, he volunteered to build some crates to hold the clothes his church was sending to an orphanage in China. When he finished building the crates, he helped pack them full of clothing and load them on the trucks that would take them to the shipping docks. He felt good that he could contribute to the project, even in a small way.

On his way home, he reached into his shirt pocket to find his glasses. They were gone. He mentally replayed his earlier actions and realized what had happened. The glasses had slipped out of his pocket unnoticed and fallen into one of the crates. His brand new glasses were heading for China!

The old carpenter had very little money, certainly not enough to replace his glasses. He was upset at the thought of having to buy another pair. “It’s not fair,” he told God as he drove home in frustration. “I’ve been very faithful in giving of my time to your work, and now this happens.”

Several months later, the director of the Chinese orphanage came to speak at the old carpenter’s small church. He began by thanking the people for their faithfulness in supporting the orphanage.

“But most of all,” he said, “I must thank you for the glasses you sent last year. You see, the Communists had just swept through the orphanage, destroying

everything, including my glasses. I was desperate. Even if I had the money, there was simply no way to replace those glasses. My coworkers and I were much in prayer about the situation. Then your crates arrived. When my staff removed one of the covers, they found a pair of glasses lying on top.”

The missionary paused long enough to let his words sink in. Then, still gripped with the wonder of it all, he continued, “Folks, when I tried on the glasses, it was as though they had been custom-made for me! It’s almost as if it were “Meant to Be!” I want to thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity!”

The congregation listened, pleased about the miraculous glasses. But the missionary surely must have confused their church with another, they thought. There were no eyeglasses on their list of items to be sent overseas.

But sitting quietly in the back, with tears streaming down his face, was an ordinary carpenter who on an ordinary day was used in an extraordinary way by the Master Carpenter himself.

God can use us in ways we might not expect. Even when things go wrong, we can trust that “in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28).

It’s hard to explain why bad things happen to God’s people. But we can expect that they will. Rain falls on good people the same way it falls on bad people (Matthew 5:45). As Christians, what sustains us is knowing that God is capable of turning the bad into good. He just asks us to trust him. He has had plans for us before we were even born. Through our trust in Him, we can live life, as it was “MEANT to BE.”

Join us for Summer Worship!

Pastor Greg



respect and justice now. Those are not the meaning of life in this age for God's people.

Once sin entered the world and everything was corrupted, and once God's saving purposes began to rescue people from sin, the glorious and beautiful purposes of this creation were thrust forward into the time when Christ would come again and set everything right: a time of perfect righteousness, a time of perfect peace, a new creation with no crying or pain anymore, so that over and over again in the Scriptures we are told to rejoice in hope — like Romans 5:2: "Rejoice in hope of the glory of God."

Refiner's Fire

This present world is primarily a season of testing and a refiner's fire. If this world is all there is, then life is surely meaningless. The Bible says, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die," if there's no resurrection from the dead" (1 Corinthians 15:32). So, the apostle Paul said, "I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us" (Romans 8:18). And again, he said, "This light momentary affliction" — I'm thinking of your loss, Abijah, for example. "This light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison" (2 Corinthians 4:17). The apostle Peter put it most fully and clearly.

By God's power [you] are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this [the coming, sure remedy for all ills; this salvation] you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith — more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire — may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 1:5–7)

"Jesus Christ suffered precisely to bring us through our fiery trials, refined and purified, into the very presence of God."



The words for various trials mean "all kinds of trials" — literally, "many colors of trials and tests." What an amazing interpretation of this world and our place in it! The meaning of suffering in this life is the refinement of faith by the fires of various trials, that we might know God, love God, show God as more precious than everything that the fires consume. Jesus Christ suffered precisely to bring us through these fiery trials, refined and purified, into the very presence of God for our eternal joy (1 Peter 3:18).



New Perspective on the Puzzle

When COVID-19 shut up my wife and me, someone gave us a puzzle with a thousand pieces. They thought we would need something to do. I spread it out on two card tables. And in the interludes between my work, I would just pause there and try to find a piece or two to put together. I began with the confidence that these thousand chaotic pieces piled in the middle of the table would one day be that beautiful picture on the box — from bedlam to beauty, from chaos to order. Yes, that's going to come. I saw the picture on the box. It was a kind of promise.

But one day, I had the border almost entirely completed — that's the way I started, with the border. It was almost entirely completed, everything fitting together, but it wouldn't fit. There were just one or two pieces that wouldn't fit. And I was sure a piece was missing. I looked all over the floor. Or maybe they made the puzzle wrong. It's defective. I went through, time after time, systematically looking at all the pieces. I put them in rows so I could see. I became fixated on the thought: *This puzzle is not going to work. This puzzle is defective.*

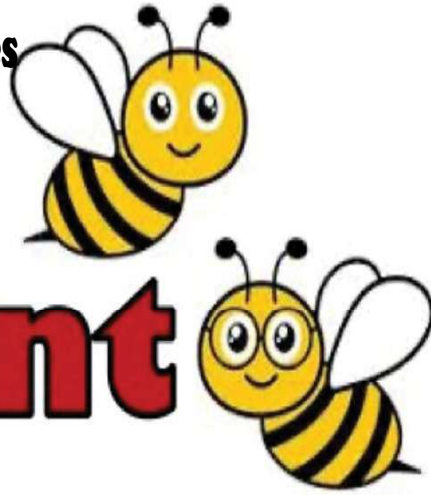
Then my wife came over and she sat down, and she looked at all the edge pieces that I had put together. And she said, "I don't think these two pieces go together that you have fastened here. They almost go together. But I don't think they go together." I looked at it and responded, "They're perfect. They go together." And she said, "No I don't think so." She took my puzzle



continues on page 4

current sermon series

LIFE as it was **meant**



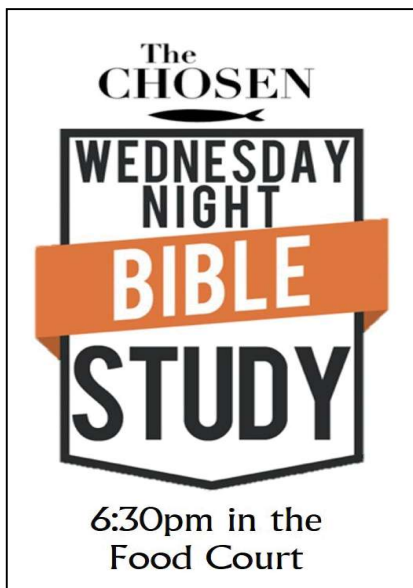
LIFE as it WAS MEANT to BE!
continued from page 3

apart, and she uncoupled the pieces that I had spent hours finding. She rearranged the pieces, and she put them back together, and it fit perfectly. There was no lost piece. There was no defect. There was just fallible me.

Don't set your fixation on the imperfection of this



puzzle and that the makers blew it — that's out of place. They really do fit. This is going to be a beautiful picture. Just keep at it. Trust the promise that's on the box there. It's true." The sufferings of this life are not worth comparing to the glory that will be revealed.



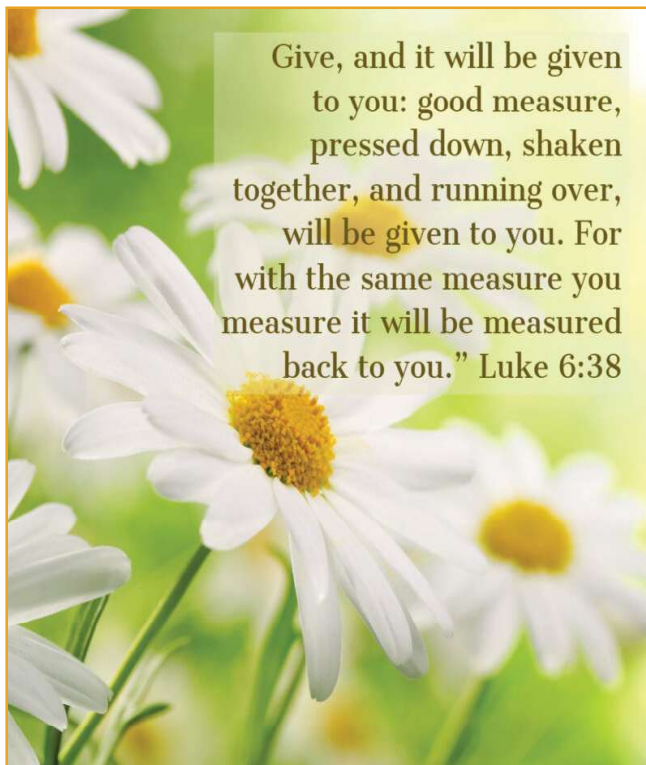




SUMMER

worship

10:15 AM IN THE PARLOR
JUNE/JULY/AUGUST



Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be given to you. For with the same measure you measure it will be measured back to you." Luke 6:38

THIS
IS WHAT *Still*
WE DO



Giving2026

Scan to give!



4

Ways to Give



in person



by mail
1138 S. Yale Ave
Tulsa, Ok 74112



online
willrogersumc.org



by text
844-277-6101

ONLINE GIVING





Will Rogers Church

LIFELINE

1138 South Yale Tulsa, OK 74112-5395 (918) 834-0891

Return Service Requested

August 2026

WILL ROGERS CHURCH

WORSHIP WITH US SUNDAY @ 10:15AM

Everyone's Welcome Nobody's Perfect Anything's Possible

SUNDAY SCHOOL @ 9:00AM

Church website: <http://www.wrctulsa.org>

[facebook.com/Will Rogers Church Tulsa OK](https://facebook.com/WillRogersChurchTulsaOK)

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Thursday
9:00am - 4:00pm

Service times:

10:15am - Blended Worship

Livestreaming

Find link on Facebook or www.wrctulsa.org

9:00am - Sunday School