QUESTION 1

What is the chief end of man?

**Man’s chief end is to glorify God**

**and enjoy Him forever.**

**CONSIDER THIS**

What is it like using a screwdriver to pound a nail? Why does using a hammer make a world of difference?

Imagine playing a football game where there were no end zones. How would the players react? Why do end zones make a difference in how the game is played?

Have you heard the term “YOLO”? What does it mean? What happens to a person who makes this his life’s slogan and chief aim in life?

**MAIN POINT**

Knowing the purpose for which we were created is the most fundamental need we have in life. Understanding why God put us on this planet enables us to live happy, fulfilling lives. Not grasping the overarching goal for which God designed us is not only sinful, but it often leads to emptiness, angst, and destructive behavior.

**SCRIPTURE STUDY**

The Bible clearly says that we were created for a specific purpose. We were made to worship God and live in communion with Him. Everything we do is supposed to be done for His glory alone.

1 Corinthians 10:31

*So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

Romans 11:36

*For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever.*

*Amen.*

Colossians 3:23

*Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.*

Psalm 86:9

*All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and [they] shall glorify your name.*

**POINTS TO PONDER**

A famous pastor/theologian named Augustine once said, “Our hearts are restless until we find our rest in Thee.” Prior to becoming a Christian he himself lived a life that was “restless.” He sought to find meaning and peace in many things: philosophy, entertainment, sex, relationships, etc. None of them, though, produced any lasting joy or satisfaction. It was not until Augustine began to follow Christ that the deepest yearnings of his heart were given any sort of true gratification. He found that life was to be lived for God, and not for himself.

Many people today continue to experience this same restlessness. Thus they seek to fill their lives with other things: work, romance, pleasure, etc. However, they soon find that these pursuits are highly unsatisfying. They end up feeling somewhat jilted—not only because their life feels empty, but because of the hurt and ruin they subsequently experience.

It is true. Peace and happiness can be very elusive if we are not living according to our God given purpose. Our souls will only be fully satisfied when Lord Jesus Christ becomes our chief delight.

What would you say has been the purpose of your life? For what have been living? Write a one line statement of what you’ve lived for up to this point.

Give three specific examples of things you’ve done in recent days that testify to the fact that this has been your life’s primary goal.

 1.

 2.

 3.

**GOING DEEPER**

Kurt Cobain, the star of the 1990’s grunge movement, is another example of a “restless heart.” Cobain had great success in life, making millions of dollars through his cutting edge music with the band Nirvana. He also had a beautiful wife and child. One would think that he had it all. But the money and music were not enough. He also was a heroin addict. No matter what form it took, Cobain’s pursuit of pleasure and search for happiness could not be satisfied. He was restlessness and he eventually ended his life by committing suicide.

In his hit song *Smells Like Teen Spirit* Cobain croaked the words *"I found it hard, it was hard to find. Oh well, whatever, never mind."*  Some have said that this line was Cobain’s way of saying that life was futile and had no meaning. If this is true, then we learn a great lesson from Cobain’s life:

***Grasping God’s purpose for our lives is one of the most fundamental needs for life.***

Some would likely write off Cobain as your average pleasure seeking, rock n’ roll druggie. But this would be a grave mistake. Cobain was much more than that. He was possibly one of our day’s *greatest philosophers*. We might even consider him to be a modern day prophet.

Think of it this way: Musicians often think deeply about life. As they compose their music, they are often giving expression to their views on life and the beliefs commonly held by the culture around them. In sum, a musician’s lyrics will often deal with life’s ultimate issues. They will sing about society’s problems, pains, pleasures, and purpose.

That is exactly what Cobain did, and that’s why we can call him prophetic.

Cobain understood our culture well. We live in a world today that promotes evolution, a system of thought that denies that man has any real meaning or purpose. Man, according to evolution, is merely a random biological accident. He is just cosmic dust floating around in space. As such, he doesn’t have a purpose. He has no reason to live. He is a meaningless blob that will one day stop ticking and die.

Many people in our world today have had this worldview pressed into their heads. It is no wonder that many, like Cobain, have concluded: why live? In essence they say, “If life is pointless, then what is the point of living?*”*

For many people their life motto is summed up in the words of Cobain’s song: *"I found it hard, it was hard to find. Oh well, whatever, never mind."*

To be sure, many think that life is like a football game with no end zones for which to aim. It might be fun for a while, but eventually you get tired of the pains and pointlessness of it all. Some may press on and keep playing the game, making the best of it. But others will just want to give up.

In contrast to the despairing worldview of evolution, the Bible tells us that *man* ***does*** *have purpose*. God has not only created us, but He created us for a most wonderful purpose: to live in relationship with Him and bring Him glory. In sum, God designed us to be worshippers, men and women who serve, honor, and praise Him in all that we do.

When we make this our aim, we not only want to keep on living, but we will find that life is imbued with joy, peace, and fulfilment.

**FURTHER STUDY**

Listen to the words of Psalms 16. Notice the serenity that King David experienced in life as a result of his relationship with God.

*5 The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup;*

*6 The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;*

*indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.*

*7 I bless the LORD who gives me counsel;*

*in the night also my heart instructs me.*

*8 I have set the LORD always before me;*

*because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.*

*9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices;*

*my flesh also dwells secure.*

*10 For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,*

*or let your holy one see corruption.*

*11 You make known to me the path of life;*

*in your presence there is fullness of joy;*

*at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

Compare David’s psalm to the lyrics of Kurt Cobain’s song. How do they differ?

Why does David have gladness, joy, and pleasures forevermore?

Would you call David “restless”? Why?

Look at verse 5. What do you think David means when calls God his “chosen portion” and his “cup”?

**BRING IT HOME**

Below are pictures depicting two different ways of life. One puts God at the center and makes serving Him the central purpose for living. The other puts the self at the center of life and aims to live solely for his own ends. Describe how each area of life may be affected by having God or yourself as the central focus.

*education*

*education*

**GOD**

**SELF**

*play*

*work*

*play*

*work*

*play*

*marriage*

*marriage*

Which of the above pictures best describes you? Why do you say so?

Why do you think some people live for God and others live for themselves? (Hint: Read Genesis 1-3)

**CLOSING PRAYER**

*Father in Heaven, You created me and have made me for Yourself. Help me to find my satisfaction in you and do all for your glory. Bless my study in this book for that very purpose. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*