

Half-Time, Making the 2nd Half of life Count - Part 2

Paul Stanley

Introduction:

- A. Our small group today was good.
- B. We have safety and freedom here.
- C. Purposefully, fruitfully, and paradoxically makes a good second half of life.

I. Living purposefully.

A. Living with a purpose.

- 1. Living with purpose in all we do.
 - a. Bible study.
 - b. Work.
- 2. In all areas of life ask, "Why are we doing this?"

B. What does it mean to live with purpose?

- 1. An immigrant to America opened a flower shop.
 - a. He didn't just sell flowers; he made beauty.
 - b. He ministered to a man looking for flowers for his wife.
 - c. That man came back to tell him his wife loved the flowers.
 - d. That man realized that he really did sell beauty.
- 2. What do you sell?
 - a. The day is exciting if you sell beauty.
 - b. Purpose gives meaning to life.
- 3. Purpose is revealed by God.
 - a. A man in Africa has been ministering in Chad.
 - b. He has a plan to quit his job and minister there full-time.
 - c. I asked him his purpose.

- d. I suggested it is to reveal God to people around him.
- e. Think of purpose rather than plans.
- f. Thinking this way brought meaning to his life and ministry.
- g. It became a family project for him to reveal God.
- h. A year later he told me how God used him to lead five men to Christ.
- i. God is a God of purpose.
- j. We are to be people of purpose.
- k. We all have a very distinctive purpose.
- l. Each one of us is perfect for God's purpose.
- m. Even if your home life was difficult God uses that for good.
- n. In Acts the disciples got into trouble for preaching Jesus but one man said to leave them alone for if their purpose was of God it cannot be stopped. (Acts 5:38-39)
- o. We are created in Christ for good works which God has prepared in advance. (Ephesians 2:10)
- p. God has good plans for his people. (Jeremiah 29:11)
- q. Abraham's purpose was to father a nation.
- r. Joseph was to preserve his family from famine.
- s. How we respond to difficult situations prepares us.
- t. Moses was a deliverer.
- u. Jochbed the mother of Moses cared for Moses.
- v. David led the people.
- w. Nehemiah rebuilt the wall.
- x. Mary gave her body to God.
- y. Joseph protected baby Jesus.
- z. Jesus brought the kingdom.
- aa. Paul and Barnabas preached.

bb. God has a purpose for each one of us.

C. How do we understand our purpose as we follow Christ?

1. We must hold to God's word. (John 8:31)
2. We are to bear much fruit. (John 15:5)
3. Love one another. (John 18:34-35)
4. Deny self and take up our cross. (Luke 9:23)
5. The Great Commission. (Matthew 28:19-20)
 - a. God develops us as we follow his purposes.
 - b. God works in us. (Philippians 2:13)
6. We have needs everywhere and some attract us.
 - a. When these needs move into a concern they become ours.
 - b. When we begin praying "send me," God gets us involved.
 - c. Concerns become burdens as with Nehemiah.
 - d. When the king saw his sad face he inquired what was wrong.
 - e. Burdens move us to do something.
 - f. Nehemiah got involved.
 - g. How many passions do you have?
 - h. You may only have one and we need to let that grow in us.
 - i. Nehemiah may have never studied wall building.
 - j. Adding passion to purpose is powerful.
 - k. Let your needs go from concerns to burdens.
 - l. Sometimes God takes radical steps to get our attention. (Acts 9)
 - m. The Spirit speaks as we worship and fast. (Acts 13:2)
 - n. Other times it might be a quiet process in prayer.
 - o. We begin to think like God. (Romans 12:2)

p. A man thought of working with the poor but found he didn't fit.

1. Slowly he thought of ways to get into their lives.
2. Now he is passionate about it.

q. Another man became concerned about adult illiteracy and got involved.

1. He found his purpose and this changed his life.
2. He got others involved in a literacy program.

7. Purpose will take us beyond ourselves.

a. Why am I here? is the question. God answers this question.

b. God instructs us. (Psalm 32:8)

c. David died after he had fulfilled God's purpose in his generation. (Acts 13:36)

d. We all are on course to fulfill God's purpose but maybe we need to let something go in order to be in God's place.

e. David was called a man after God's own heart; this kind of person God will use.

f. We need to be ready to do anything God wants of us.

g. God looks for those whose hearts are right before him.

8. Pursue God's purpose.

a. The speaker shows a clip from Indiana Jones that reveals what we need to have purpose.

1. Faith
2. Humility.
3. Persistence.
4. Passion.
5. Repentance.
6. Knowledge of God's word.

b. Doing these things will help us make right choices.