**PURPOSES IN OUR HEARTS**

**Text: Ecclesiastes 3:1, 17**

* 1 To everything *there is* a season,
* A time for every purpose under heaven:
* 17 I said in my heart, “God shall judge the righteous and the wicked,
* For *there is* a time there for every purpose and for every work.”

**INTRO:**

* After we studying the principles in edifying the body of Christ, we will now study the purposes in our hearts
* Purpose- comes from the Hebrew word “*chephets”* which means:
* delight
* Pleasure
* Desire or longing
* the aim or intention of something
* the feeling of being determined to do or achieve something
* the aim or goal of a person : what a person is trying to do or become
* Can you mention some of your heart’s purposes?

**AIM:**

* FOR US TO DEFINE OUR HEART’S PURPOSES
* FOR US TO PURPOSE IN OUR HEARTS TO LIVE ON GOD’S PURPOSES
* FOR US TO GIVE TIME ON EVERY PURPOSE

**I. JESUS’ DEFINED PURPOSE**

* Luke 4:43 but He said to them, “I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for this purpose I have been sent.”
* I John 3:8 For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.
* John 10: 10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.
* Life would be so vague when there is no defined purpose
* Success begins with the definition of purpose
* Purpose is the main key for success
* Purpose determines success
* Life’s problems are traceable from lack of purpose

**II. THERE IS A TIME FOR EVERY PURPOSE-V 1 & 17**

* There are various purposes, not just one
* There is a time for all purpose
* We should not be stuck in one purpose or our own purposes but be wise in time management
* We cannot say we have no time, it is just a matter of priority
* John 7:6 Therefore Jesus told them, “My time is not yet here; for you any time will do. NIV
* 6 Then Jesus said to them, “My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready. NKJV
* Ephesians 5:15 Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise,
* 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. NIV
* He has made everything beautiful in its time- Eccle 3:11
* Things go wrong if there is no timing
* Ex. Fertilizers by Pastor Rommel
* Given too early and made the leaves suck the nutrients

**III. GOD IS DETERMINED IN HIS PURPOSES**

* Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.
* Acts 4:28 “to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.
* It’s not because you insist your own God will give up His purpose
* We get in trouble by standing against His purpose
* Proverbs 19:21 Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails.
* Ex. Jonah
* The best thing that could happen in your life is to live according to His purpose
* Isaiah 14:24 The LORD of hosts has sworn: “As I have planned, so shall it be, and as I have purposed, so shall it stand,

**IV. PURPOSE IS OUR DESTINY**

* John 12:27 “Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I came to this hour.
* Jesus came with a purpose to save us by dying on the cross
* Do not run away from your God-given purpose
* Running away from it does not solve the problem but making it worse
* It is essential therefore to know your purpose
* Purpose is worth dying for
* The greatest tragedy in life is not death but to live without purpose (Myles Munroe)
* Acts 20: 22 And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there,
* 23 except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me.
* 24 But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself,[a] so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

**V. FULFILLMENT IN LIFE IS BASED ON PURPOSE**

* No matter what you’ve done or achieved it your purpose are left undone, you failed
* Lives are only fulfilled when purpose are accomplished
* When Jesus said “It is finished” in John 19:30, His mission or purpose was accomplished
* Life was given to us for a purpose
* Life is a portion of eternity, our existence from birth to death, is wasted when purpose are left undone
* Philippians 1:21 For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better.
* 22 But if I live, I can do more fruitful work for Christ. So I really don’t know which is better. 23 I’m torn between two desires: I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me. 24 But for your sakes, it is better that I continue to live.
* 25 Knowing this, I am convinced that I will remain alive so I can continue to help all of you grow and experience the joy of your faith.

**VI. PURPOSE ACCOMPLISHED IS WHAT MAKES LIFE MORE MEANINGFUL**

* Nothing else matter
* Life does not make sense if we do not live on His purpose
* This is the reason why people endure hardship in serving the Lord-we are satisfied
* On the the other hand, lots of people achieved so many things but are not satisfied
* Their lives are still empty
* They are still longing for something they could not explain
* Therefore let us pursue the things *which make* for peace and the things by which one may edify another.-v 19
* Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food-v 20
* All things indeed *are* pure, but *it is* evil for the man who eats with offense-v 20
* Psalm 73:25 Whom have I in heaven *but You?* And *there is* none upon earth *that* I desire besides You.

VII. RE-DEFINING OUR PURPOSE

* When you come to church, what is your purpose?
* When you sing for the Lord
* When you write your prayer requests
* When you left the church
* When you wake up in the morning
* When you leave your house everyday?
* Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.
* We’ve lived for so many years on our own purpose, NOW is the time to live for God’s purpose.

**CHALLENGE:**

* Are you satisfied in life?
* Is your God-given purpose accomplished?
* Are you wise in spending your time to live on every purpose?

**CONCLUSION:**

* Ecclesiastes 3:17 I said in my heart,
* God shall judge the righteous and the wicked,
* For *there is* a time there for every purpose and for every work.”