

Finishing Your Course

How are you living your life? What are the primary influences that give your life direction and drive? The Bible says in Hebrews 10:38 (in the Amplified version) that we are to live by our conviction, respecting man's relationship with God and with an eye to the eternal and everlasting things. We are to live with a holy fervor born of our faith for the eternal purpose of God. In short, we are to live with a sense of God and His divine plan for all men's lives. God communicates this to us through His written Word and by the Holy Spirit. In this life God is continually revealing to us His plans and purposes through prophecy, dreams, visions and leading us by His Spirit into His will for our individual lives. Surely we must understand that God has a plan for our individual lives. We can never forget that He calls us the work of His hands, the display of His splendor (Ps. 138:8, Isa. 60:21) and He promises that He will fulfill His divine purpose for our lives (Psalm 138:8, Phil 1:6).

We are warned in the Proverbs that to not possess this revelation in life will result in us missing the entire purpose of our existence and not being able to put our lives into this context will cause us to lose sight of the relevance of our existence. Essentially, we are told that we will not understand the created purpose of our lives and the result will be that, through self-abuse and neglect, our lives will eventually self-destruct.

Prov 29:18 NIV

18 Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint;

Prov 29:18 NLT

18 When people do not accept divine guidance, they run wild.

Prov 29:18 AMP

18 Where there is no vision [no redemptive revelation of God], the people perish;

Here we see the same scripture, taken from three different translations. I believe that each translation is correct, but read together they give us a view of the digression that occurs in a believer's life without the governance of supernatural purpose. Without a revelation of one's created purpose, without a revelation of redemptive purpose, people will cast off restraint. Without the restraints of God's love, His Word and His purpose to direct their lives people will begin to run wild, their lives become out of control. Without any vision for your life you will eventually be destroyed. God promises to lead us by His Spirit and throughout the Scripture we see His promise to lead us into His divine purpose by giving us the knowledge of His will through wisdom and revelation.

Once we have received vision for our lives, when revelation has made us able to see our lives in the light of God's redemptive purpose for the earth, we must allow that vision to become the impetus behind everything we do. The dream inspires us, the revelation orients our life, and the vision empowers us and becomes the hope of our faith. It is God's promise to us that our life has meaning and purpose. It is our guarantee that at the end of this life when we meet our Father face to face we will hear those words, "Well done—good and faithful servant."

Your life has great significance, you must see it in the light of God's eternal plan. This gives your life value, meaning and purpose. He wants to give you a vision, to deposit a dream into your heart. He wants to give you a revelation of His purpose for your life and then cause that plan to come to pass as you learn to cooperate with and walk in the Spirit. We can never forget that we are given but one life on earth and that the dreams we are given are for this one life. The vision for this world will do us no good in the next life. What good is it to take our dreams and visions to our grave unfulfilled? They are given in this life and they are for this world. Some day, either in death or in the rapture of the church, this life and all that we know about it will pass away. It will be swallowed up into eternity. How we live our lives to the fulfillment of God's purpose is what this life is all about.

1 Cor 13:8-10 AMP

...As for prophecy (the gift of interpreting the divine will and purpose), it will be fulfilled and pass away; as for tongues, they will be destroyed and cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away [it will lose its value and be superseded by truth].

9 For our knowledge is fragmentary (incomplete and imperfect), and our prophecy (our teaching) is fragmentary (incomplete and imperfect).

10 But when the complete and perfect (total) comes, the incomplete and imperfect will vanish away (become antiquated, void, and superseded).

God has seen fit to speak to His people in various rudimentary means down through the ages of this earth. But when this life is over the tools in which He has given us to navigate this life will be of no value. Gone will be the prophecies, the visions, the dreams, gone will be the knowledge that was derived from these crude revelations. We will no longer look through a glass darkly; when the perfection appears the imperfect will pass away. The revelation that we have received, the vision that we hold for our lives, the dreams that we carry in our heart, will be irrelevant in the next life. There is that in which God communicates to us in this life for the purpose of our living and doing His divine will that will certainly not be relevant in eternity. The knowledge we possess, that which has been revealed to us concerning this life will not be of any value to us then. Again, we are told in Hebrews 10 that what we need is patience, steadfastness and endurance so that we may perform and fully accomplish the will of God and receive and enjoy to the full what God has promised. Now is not the time to quit. God is not negotiating a cease-fire with the enemy. We are not finished until it is all complete. Now is the time to muster the strength, to stir our faith, to finish. God expects that we will finish the race that He has given us to run. He has set us on a course and He expects that we will complete it. Either in death or in the rapture, we should be able to rejoice that we have finished and finished well. Do not be content to pass from this life with unrealized vision and un-fulfilled dreams. We must realize, fulfill, and finish!