

Throughout history, people have asked the questions: Why am I here? Is this all there is to life? These questions try to shed some understanding on the life that we see with our eyes, which seems to indicate there is more to life than just being born, living and dying.

Many men have put forth theories suggesting the meaning of life but none are adequate. None are adequate because they start from the mind of man who is inadequate. Men have failed because the meaning of life must start from Him who is the originator of life . . . the God of the Bible! There is no other true and living God. Buddha, Hari Krishna and the like are all deceptions of the Devil.

He who created life and sustains life also established the meaning of life. Life and its meaning is too complicated to figure out. It must be revealed.

God the Originator

The meaning of life starts with the one and only true and living God who is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit of the Bible. As many have said before; the Bible is the Word, or thoughts, of God to mankind. It is God's message to us. It is God's plan for the Earth and mankind.

In the original languages, the Bible is absolute truth. We do not have to decide what part of it is true; it is all true. That means we can believe it all and depend on it all. It is from this position of the strength of God's message to us that we learn from Him the meaning of life.

Before the creation existed, God wanted to have a people whom He could love forever, and who would love and appreciate Him forever. *This is the central purpose for God's creation.* This is kind of like couples now, each wanting to have the other to love and be loved. So you sought each other out. You made a place and a life together for the two of you. Likewise, God created the universe to have a place where He could love and be loved by His people.

God created a wonderful world with a myriad of beautiful plants, unique animals and gorgeous scenery. He wanted the one's He loved to see His love for them in the beauty of the place where they would live. Most people appreciate the natural beauty of the creation but don't appreciate the creator.

God also made angels, some who are loyal to God and some who are not. Satan, the Devil, is the chief angel who is against God and God's people.

God made man in His own image. We look similar to Him. And like Him, we are individuals. He made us autonomous. We think for ourselves. God made us autonomous because autonomy is required to have the capability to love. No autonomy, no love. Therefore, no love for God.

The downside of autonomy, from God's point of view, is man may not want to love God. God has infinite wisdom and perfect character, man has finite wisdom and imperfect character. Therefore, man's thoughts, actions and behavior will be different than God's thoughts, actions

and behavior. If you remember, this is the lesson of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. There man learned to trust his own judgement rather than trust God's judgement.

Adam and Eve before eating the forbidden fruit, assumed God was correct in everything He said. But when the devil put the question to them, "Did God say you shall not eat?" That put the Garden couple into the position of: (1) doubting God, (2) answering Satan's question, and (3) by default, deciding whether or not God was correct about eating from the forbidden tree.

They judged God and His love for them. After all, He was keeping them from the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. So they decided to eat. Thus, *they took-on responsibility for managing their own life* rather than trusting God to manage their lives.

God had previously said, "In the day that you eat, you shall surely die." They did die "spiritually" that day which is what God meant. Dying means a separation. They were separated from God (driven out of the Garden).

They were separated from God because He does not want rebellious people in His presence. Do you?

Since they didn't die physically that day, they thought God was telling them wrong. They were deceived by the devil. Since they thought God was wrong, they began to not trust Him. Since they thought they were right, they trusted their own judgement. Since men are autonomous, they have trusted their own judgement ever since, even to this day. Don't you trust your own judgement about life?

Satan deceived Adam and Eve and he continues to deceive all men even today. Men don't realize there are evil angels working against them and righteous angels working for them. Angels influence people's thinking toward or away from God's thinking and actions.

God has decreed that someday there will be a judgement, where the people who love Him will go to be with Him in paradise forever, and where the people who choose not to love Him will go to some kind of Hell, forever.

This is an impossible situation for man. Separation from God means man can never love God! Because, you cannot love whom you do not know. And, you cannot come to know a person from whom you are separated.

But, this is also an impossible situation for God. For God to have a people who would love Him forever: (1) He had to create them capable of loving Him and capable of not loving Him (because love is a choice); (2) expose them to the concept of rebellion; (3) allow them to rebel; (4) separate them from Himself, and (5)

then set up conditions such that they would love and appreciate Him, and allow Him to manage their life, instead of continuing their own rebellious leadership.

In addition, men would have to be “knowers” not just “believers” that God’s way is best. Men would have to *experience* God as well as “believe” in Him.

Therefore, God on His own initiative, would have to: (1) overcome physical death, (2) bridge the separation between God and man, and (3) devise a new way for man to love God. *It is these conditions which established the need for God’s salvation plan through Jesus Christ.*

God’s Answers to an Impossible Situation

God wants a people who will love him forever. He will overcome *physical death* by resurrection. If you are dead, He will make you alive again with a new body. If you are alive at a resurrection event, He will give you a new body and take you to be with Him.

God will *overcome the separation between God and man* through “faith” in Jesus of Nazareth who is called Christ. Godly men will tell other men about the love and the “goodness” of God. Some men will listen, believe, and act on their belief (have faith), and come to experience God in their life.

God will *persuade men to love Him* by first loving all men through the person and work of Jesus Christ.

God, the Father, said, I will send my Son, Jesus Christ to Earth to tell them I love them. I will heal their sick, heal their wounds, cast the devil out of their lives, save them from their sins (wrong and different thinking), and show them what righteousness (God’s thinking and actions) really is. I will prove to them that God loves them by sending this Jesus, who is part of the Godhead, to love them, even though they will torture Him to death. He will suffer excruciating pain as shown in the movie, “The Passion Of The Christ.”

God says, if they ask me, I will forgive them of their heinous crime because I want them to believe I really do love them. *This proof is the most I can do to demonstrate my love.*

All they have to do is: (1) be open to my existence and truth, (2) be open to Me showing my love to them. If they are open, they will see my love. If they are not open, they will not perceive my love, as my love. They will perceive my love as good luck or good fortune.

The meaning of life from God’s point of view emerges from the question “What persons will be open to loving My Son, Jesus of Nazareth, who is called Christ? God has asked that question. God has given every man and woman a lifetime to answer. What will your answer be?

The meaning of life from a person’s point of view is: will I, or will I not, allow myself to learn about God and His Christ, such that I can discover if He is really “good” and worthy to be loved.

I ask you; the reader . . . who is this Jesus of Nazareth who is called Christ? Is He God, is He a liar, or is He a lunatic? If you are not sure, go find out.

Our Response

If you don’t know how to find out just ask God, right now,

right where you sit or stand, to guide you. You may want to say something like this: “God, if you are there, please reveal yourself to me.”

You may ask, “How can I love God?” “I don’t even know Him.” Think about it. If you saw a girl or guy to which you were attracted, how would you decide if you loved him or her? Of course, you would get to know the person. That would put you in the position of knowing whether the person is worth loving. Learning about God is done the same way. *Be open to the truth about God.* Get to know Him, read your Bible. Ask Him to help you.

Learning that every person should give God a chance to show His reality and “goodness” to them is life’s most important issue. It is so because your eternal destiny depends on your openness to the truth of who God really is. Jesus, on the cross, took all the punishment for all the sins of the world. So no one goes to Hell because they are a sinner. If they go Hell, its because they didn’t open themselves to see God’s “goodness.”

If you allow yourself to seek the truth about God diligently, He will allow you to find his “goodness” which will lead you to loving Him with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and your neighbor as yourself. Thus, you get to Heaven to be with God and with His people

If you don’t allow yourself to be open and seek the truth about God diligently, you don’t get exposed to the love and goodness of God. Thus, you are only left with a point of view which does not include the love and goodness of God. Thus, whatever or whomever you do love, will not include God, His worth, and His people. This results in you not caring about God and not wanting to be with Him. He will allow you to not be with Him; which results in you going to some form of Hell.

The world is a beautiful place. God intended for us to enjoy His creation, to appreciate and love the creator; which is the meaning of life. But instead, the Devil has deceived most men into believing there is no Creator.

This is the bottom line. Seek God’s point of view. Compare it with your present point of view. The contrast will reveal the truth. For more information, you can read my book, **Managed Cooperation Theology**, Norman E. Jones, Divinely Timed Publications, 2011, available at Amazon.com. You may also buy it, and save \$ on my website at: “www.soulsurvival.info”. For question-answers E-mail: “soulsurvival@soulsurvival.info”.