

What is the Meaning of Life?

This is the question that has been debated since mankind first learned to debate! Despite the multitudes of books written by the brilliant minds of great thinkers and philosophers throughout history, maybe, just maybe, the answer is quite simple? What do you think the meaning of life is? Why are we here, what are we supposed to do whilst here, what happens when our body finally dies? Is the meaning of life about the accumulation of wealth and material possessions? Is it about pursuing happiness and feeling good about yourself? Or is it simply about procreation and the continuation of your genes?

Perhaps your view is primarily shaped by your thoughts about whether there exists a higher power beyond us. If you don't believe this, and you believe that you are just a bunch of random cells created from earthly materials that eventually returns to dust, leaving nothing but memories, then the meaning of life is probably not that important to you. Just struggle on, get through life as best as you can, then that's it – no hope, no future, no need to be concerned about sin.

A simple, (and more hope-filled!) argument goes as follows. Have you ever considered that life is a bit like a job interview, or a kind of a test? It is true, everyone has a beginning, from the moment of conception, and an end at the moment the physical body dies. In between those two points, however, you are being tested and given choices. The REAL you, i.e. the spirit, will live beyond the point the body dies, and therefore what is at stake is the eternal destination of your spirit. God loves you more than you can ever know and wants to be with you and in relationship with you for eternity. Firstly, He wants you to choose Him. He loves you too much to force you into something you don't want, but He does want you to have an informed choice. Secondly, even if you do want to be with God in heaven, He is a pure and righteous God, therefore can't accept you if you are carrying any baggage of sin.

The task you face is to find your way back to Him, whilst being relentlessly challenged by the world to turn the other way. Satan has power and influence in this physical world, and he is the father of lies, fear, deception, and confusion. But he is also allowed to test each of us by tempting us to sin – at which point you have a choice whether to accept sin or reject it in favour of righteousness. However, living a righteous life is only the start and will not give you your salvation. For that you need Jesus! Satan knows he is already defeated by God who created everything, including Satan himself. Therefore, he will attempt to take as many people down with him as possible. He uses every trick in the book to convince people to turn away from God. The following are common tactics/lies he uses:

- God/Satan don't exist – this is done by 'normalising' secular and atheistic beliefs in society.
- 'Everything' consists of only what you can experience through your senses in a physical realm. I.e. the lie that there is no spiritual realm.
- You can be like God and be in control of everything in your life. This plays on our natural prideful nature by putting ourselves at the centre rather than our Creator.
- Even if you believe God exists, Satan lies about His true nature. Therefore, God is blamed for bad things He doesn't do, and not given credit for good things He does.
- 'Little sins' are fine, God will 'let you off'. Spoiler alert – He won't.
- Multitudes of false religions have been created to confuse the message.

In summary, the meaning of life is to find your way to God, and the ONLY way to do that is through Jesus Christ. So, how do we actually choose 'life' for our eternal spirit? All of us sin every day, and the Bible teaches us that sin is an abomination to God. He will not allow any sin in His presence. God provided us with the solution through His enduring kindness and love for us. It is a free gift if you choose to accept it.

Repent for your sins from your heart and put your trust in Jesus. Believe that Jesus paid the ultimate price by being cruelly crucified, then rising from the dead three days later to conquer death. Jesus led a perfect life but was sacrificed to pay for the sins of mankind. Belief in Jesus is the only way to God and to achieve eternal life in the presence of God.

"For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life". John 3:16

“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me”. John 14:6

Do you want to find out more? Here are some useful resources to begin your journey:

davidpawson.co.uk

derekprince.com

bibleproject.com

khouse.org

(produced by kingdomtracts.co.uk)