

## Ending Your Search For Significance

### Introduction:

1. Deep down, I believe that most people want to know that their lives have some meaning – some sense of significance.
2. At the end of your life, you want to be able to look back and know that your life had true meaning and that it truly counted.
3. The world that we live in is trying to sell us a false bill of goods. The world says that you will be significant if:
  - You can be beautiful like the people on TV.
  - You can make lots of money.
  - You can achieve fame, popularity, and status.
  - You drive a certain car or wear a certain kind of clothes.It's a lie! You often hear of sports stars and movie stars on drugs or dealing with anorexia.
4. But, if you want to experience a life of significance, it begins in one place: the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who is risen and exalted in heaven.
5. To the world 2,000 years ago, it looked like Jesus' life would **not** be one of significance (just another religious zealot that died in a failed cause). But Christ's resurrection from the dead proved that He was who He said He was - the Son of God, the Resurrection and the Life.
6. After His resurrection, it was revealed that Christ's death was necessary because, there on the cross, He was paying the penalty for our sin and wickedness.
7. Now He offers eternal life to whosoever will believe on Him and trust Him as Savior. At that very moment, our spirit and the Spirit of Jesus Christ become one, and the Bible says we are **in Christ**. There are only two possibilities for every person in the world:
  - You are either in your sins (John 8:24), or you are **in Christ**. 2 Corinthians 5:17
8. If your life is to have true meaning and significance, it is found in the resurrected Christ. Why is this? Because once I am in Christ:

### I am God's temple - 1 Corinthians 3:16

1. He is writing to Christians and asking them a rhetorical question. This is amazing!
2. In the Old Testament, God's presence would fill a building (the temple), and only the priest could go into God's presence. Once you are in Christ, **you** become the temple of God. The Spirit of God dwells **in you!**
3. In this age, God isn't taking up residence in a building or a room, but in people. How does God choose who He is going to live in?
  - According to Ephesians 1:13, those who have believed the gospel and trusted Christ. It's your choice!!
  - Jesus rose from the dead, ascended to heaven, and is now sending His Spirit to indwell those who believe on Him.
4. People think, "If I get this certain job, or drive this car, or move into this neighborhood, or achieve this financial status, I'll be significant."

- No! If God dwells inside of you, you are significant! If not, your search will be in vain until He does.
5. Young people today are searching for significance in all the wrong places. They desperately need the Spirit of God dwelling in their spirit. Once they trust Christ, they must be taught that their body is now the temple of God. It is property of the King of kings.

### **I am God's workmanship - Ephesians 2:10**

1. When a person comes to Jesus for salvation, God creates a new person in Christ. Ephesians 2:10 states, "*For we are his workmanship...*"
2. It makes no difference what you were in the past, or what you may have done, or how messed up your life might have been. At the moment of salvation, God makes you a totally new person and has a definite plan and purpose for your life ("*unto good works*").
3. Do we have any builders in here? When you build something, you always have a purpose for it, right? Snow fort! The purpose? To play in. Some of you built a privacy fence around your house. Why? Privacy! Built a pool? Why? To swim in!
4. When God creates you a new person in Christ, you are His workmanship, and He has a plan for your life. Your life has new purpose.
5. Satan will beat you up about your past and try and convince you that you are worthless – just a piece of junk. But God says, "I saved you and made you a new person in Christ. You are my workmanship and you are significant." As Ethel Waters used to say, "God don't make no junk."

### **I am seated with Christ in heaven - Ephesians 2:6**

1. Christ died for our sins on the cross and, three days later, rose from the dead. But then what? Let's read Ephesians 1:20-21. Christ was given an exalted place in the heavens.
2. Are you ready for this? If we are saved and in Christ, so have we! Ephesians 2:6
  - This is past tense. He's saying it has already happened.
3. This means that, if you are saved, you already have a place in heaven. All of heaven knows your name and knows who you are.
4. The world may tell you that you have no significance. You aren't a beauty queen, or a hunk, or a star athlete, or have a cool car, or aren't the sharpest knife in the drawer. But if you are in Christ, you have a high, exalted position that you will occupy for all eternity.
5. Many people who seem so significant in this life will be fools in eternity because they were not in Christ. "Have we not done many wonderful works?" (Matthew 7:22). "I starred in movies and won Oscars." "I could hit a baseball farther." "I was a basketball star." "I won beauty contests." "I had the nicest house in town." Everyone down here may know you, but what good is it if Christ doesn't know you?

## **I may approach God with freedom - Ephesians 2:18**

1. When you are in Christ, you have free entrance into God's presence to talk to Him at any time (cf. 3:12) with boldness and confidence.
2. When we are saved, the blood of Christ cleanses us, washes away our sin, and makes us fit to stand in the presence of a holy God and commune with Him.
3. You may never get to meet or shake hands with a sports or movie star, but if you are in Christ, you possess true significance because you have access to the One who created it all.

### **In Conclusion:**

1. Jesus told a story in Matthew 22 that I would like to paraphrase.
  - This guy decided that he liked his garment better than the one the King provided. He thought his significance came from how he looked and what he did. He failed to see that true significance came when he simply received and clothed himself in the garment of the King. So many people are on a search for significance in this life.
2. Jesus died for your sins and rose from the dead so that you could be forgiven of all your sins and clothed in Christ's righteousness. True meaning and significance is found in Christ. Will you turn to Christ and receive Him as your Savior today?
3. What makes you think that you can find significance anywhere other than the only One who ever defeated death and rose from the dead? Jesus Christ is the only One who can end your search for significance.