

Words of

# Truth & Reason

Acts 26:25

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CHURCH OF CHRIST—QUAIL VALLEY

## ***Changing the Purpose of Life, Changes Everything***

*Who hasn't asked the question, "What is the purpose of life?"*

Human life has a unique *purpose*, but lives are bruised and scarred because the purpose is crowded out of busy lives, doubted by skeptical minds, and ignored by minds hostile to truth. These lives need to read *Ecclesiastes* to learn life's purpose is to fear God and keep His commandments and the problems of lives lacking this purpose (12:13-14).

When a busy schedule leaves God in second or third place, the purpose of life becomes to feel better, laugh more, be comfortable, make more money, enjoy rare entertainment or items to please or impress self or others (Eccl. 2). It fails.

A skeptical mind doesn't know where God belongs, so this life is spent experimenting, never finding a clear answer to life's purpose. They seek happiness pleasing themselves but find themselves alone (Eccl. 4:8; 6:7). They seek happiness pleasing others but find this impossible (Eccl. 5:11; 9:13-15).

A mind hostile to truth declares that the purpose of life is what each person decides for himself but unchangeable and unforeseen events interrupt their purposes (Eccl.3:1-9; 9:11). Whatever the subject, if we change God's purpose, then whatever we do will fail.

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## ***Changing the Purpose of the Lord's Supper, Changes Everything***

Does God focus on "what" we do or "why" we do certain things? Jesus said, *...he that does the will of My Father in heaven will enter the kingdom of heaven* (Matt. 7:21). When the Holy Father tells us "what" to do, we must do it. When He tells us "why" to do certain things, we must do them for that reason. If I do "what" God says but for a different purpose than God's, have I done His will?

For example, in 1 Corinthians 11, when the saints came together as a church, they were eating and drinking but the purpose was not to remember Jesus' death. Paul teaches them that "hunger-eating" is for the home and "memorial-eating" is for the church (v18, 24-25, 34). The *purpose* for eating mattered. Changing the purpose for eating the Lord's Supper, changes everything, doesn't it?

An adjunct professor of Harding University (John Hicks) has said that the focus of the Lord's Supper should be on the resurrection of Jesus, not His death ([Come to the Table](#), p189). The Lutheran Church eats the Lord's Supper for the forgiveness of sins. Why does it matter, as long as we eat? Because changing the purpose, changes everything!

# Changing the Purpose of Baptism, Changes Everything

*For what purpose were you baptized?*

In the above article, we learned that God examines us inside and out. He expects us to do *what* He teaches for the purpose He teaches. Anything less is a failure to do His will (Mt. 7:21).

In Acts 19, Paul met some men who had been baptized, but after talking to Paul, they were baptized again. Why be baptized again? Aren't all baptisms alike? No. There were differences between the purpose of John's and Jesus' baptism. No doubt, Paul taught them that baptism must be by faith in the working of God, to add us to Christ, and thus His Church, through His death/blood (Col. 2:12; 1 Cor. 12:13; Rom. 6:3). As Peter said, *in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins* (Acts 2:38).

This is what we teach, not because of any man-made movement but because we believe, like Paul, that baptism and its purpose is from Jesus. Who in the Bible was baptized *after* being saved? Which apostle called baptism "an outward sign of an inward grace" already given or claimed it was for inherited sin? These are the baptisms of Protestant and Catholic Churches, not of Jesus' Church. Does it matter why you are baptized? Changing the purpose, changes everything.

*... buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, (Colossians 2:12)*

You are invited to:  
Sunday AM Bible classes:  
**10:00AM**  
Sunday AM Worship:  
**10:45AM**  
Sunday PM Worship:  
**5:00 PM**  
Wednesday Bible Classes  
& Worship: 7:00 PM

## Sanctuary

Does your church have a sanctuary? What is a sanctuary? In the Old Testament, the sanctuary (or *the holy place*) was the first part of the Tabernacle/Temple (Hebrews 9:2). In the New Testament, there is no earthly sanctuary for Jesus is *Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man* (Heb. 8:2). In the Bible, the place where Christians gathered is not called a *sanctuary*. So why do so many religious groups call the place where they meet to worship *the sanctuary*?

Often this is the result of confusion over the old covenant and new covenant (Heb. 8:7). The sanctuary, altar, incense, priesthood, and priestly robes are part of the Old Testament. Jesus' death ended all that (Heb. 8:1-6; 9:6-10:9; Mt. 26:28).

Some people think that since a building is used as a place to worship, then that is a holy place all the time. Israel's sanctuary was holy all the time because the Temple always represented God's presence (in the most Holy place). God has no building like that today, as Jesus prophesied (Jn. 4:21). If your church has a sanctuary, find out why and then study your Bible. Send us your comments or questions.

### Questions from this issue's articles:

1. What is the purpose of life according to Solomon in Ecclesiastes 12:13-14?
2. What is the purpose of the Lord's Supper according to Paul in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26?
3. What is a purpose of baptism according to Peter Acts 2:38 and 1 Peter 3:21?
4. Why is there no earthly sanctuary today?

\* Mail your answers to the church of Christ in Quail Valley 4104 E. Harrison St, Batesville, AR 72501  
OR, e-mail your answers to **TruthAndReason@suddenlink.net**

\* If you have a comment or question, call (793-6700; 569-4491) or visit our website **WWW.QVCOC.COM**

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