

**Speaker:** Associate Pastor David Seah

**Title:** The Importance of Having A Purpose

### Introduction

Turn to your neighbor and say “Don’t be a chicken”, and turn to another & say “don’t be a chicken without a head!”

Can you ever imagine someone setting out to construct a building without a plan? As an illustration, a few years ago when we said that we were going to build CCC, and imagine if we didn’t show you the artists impression, the budget, the size, the time frame – and we tell you, as we go along we will figure out what to do. How many of you would go – “what no plan, no purpose? You must be crazy?” Right? Why? Because no one will ever embark on a construction without a blueprint.

Another illustration - How many of you here cook? Can I see your hand? Ok, those of you who cook – how many of you cook this way? You start the fire, warm the wok, your pour the oil, and then go “hmmm, I wonder what’s in the fridge?” You are getting the point – nobody create a meal without ingredients or without a recipe.

One last illustration, how many would pack your luggage for a family vacation, inform your neighbor that you’ll be away for 2 weeks, get into the car, start the engine and then turn to your wife & kids and ask “honey, where shall we go ah?”

We don’t do that with constructing a building or cooking or going for a holiday. But do you know that we do that with our lives? We have no plan or purpose in the way we live our lives, whether we live it annually, seasonally or life-long.

And the implication is great, isn’t it? That we could always cook another meal with sufficient ingredients, or tear down a half built structure so that we can re-build, or plan for a better holiday the next time, but we cannot **re-live** our lives? The clock is ticking and there’s no way to turn back time. I can’t say “Oh I don’t like the way I lived two year ago, I want to go back there and live it again.” You can’t. There’s no ‘trial & error period’ with our lives.

So, because the clock is ticking and time & tide waits for no man, there is an urgent & an important need to establish or re-establish our purpose for living and what our mission in life is.

Now let’s take a look at some interviews that we recorded randomly recently. We ask them 2 questions “What’s your mission in life?” “What do you see yourself do in 5 years’ time?”

Quiet sensible remarks, aren’t they? We notice some have a framework / picture of their mission clearly, so clear that one could enthusiastically articulate it in German.

Let’s bring this discussion closer to home. Let me now come down and do some live interviews at random. But I’m changing the question to this - “What would you be doing if you only have a year to live?”

You see, each of these remarks are purposeful. Some are serious-world-changing-purposes, while others are fun-take-it-easy kinda purpose. They didn’t say “wait & see lah” or “dun know”. Most of them described a picture, a vision, a destination of what their hearts desire to do.

One of the saddest part in life is to wake up one day and realize that we have not done anything worthwhile, or we have not reached our desired destination, or grown in areas that brings joy & fulfillment.

But we all know that we have limited time. Some, literally may only have one year – whether we know it or otherwise. But the fact remains that we all a time frame. Some more, others less. And the clock is ticking.

Now, turn to your neighbor and say this in German “Sie nicht ein Huhn Ohne ein Kopf” which means “don’t be a chicken without a head”!

My message today will help us see the urgency / importance of having a head and where to begin finding it.

## Content

Why it is important to have a purpose? In other words, what is the purpose of having a purpose?

i. Firstly, we gain focus.

We are created to focus. Our eyes are created to zoom in – whether it is on an object far or near. (right now, I'm focusing on the man sitting way at the back, with blue shirt... perhaps with the purpose of wanting to know you, or to enquire why you wear such interesting shirts... or you are focusing on me, looking at me – with the purpose of understanding me better so that you can fully benefit from this message)

Can you imagine – you have a purpose and all you see is a blurry image of me? Its not going to be meaningful.

No one wants a blurry life. We are not meant to just drift along and do our own thing. (Isaiah 53:6a - We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way) – Because we have no purpose.

To illustrate what I am saying, let me ask you this - did you notice that since the beginning of 2010 World Cup, there is an electrical item that sold like hot cakes. Anybody want to guess - High Definition TV. Why? Because we want sharpness. We want to see reality as it really is. Not through stain glass nor watch it vaguely. But clearly.

Church, we are made for clarity. In other words, we are made to live a HD life. Not a life without purpose, not an unsure life. Not a half-hearted life. But a full life. A clear life. A fulfilled life. And that can only come when we have a purpose.

Without purpose and without clarity, do you know what we'll most likely do? We will have the tendency to complain. To grumble. To murmur. Let's turn to Exodus 16:1-3

The whole Israelite community set out from Elim and came to the Desert of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had come out of Egypt. <sup>2</sup> In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. <sup>3</sup> The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the LORD's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death."

Wow, imagine that. What an accusation.

The Israelites are liken to chickens with a half dangling head. (Yuck yuck). Not slightly. But true. The Israelites either do not have a purpose or have forgotten about it. So when there's no purpose, there's no foresight and all they saw were the flaws & weaknesses and failures of their circumstance and the one leading them.

Friends, take a moment and evaluate our own complains & murmuring. Do our complains stem from a healthy attitude of really wanting things to change for the better for the glory of God or do they stem from a lack of purpose?

(We complain about our parents, or college, or work or superior or ministry or marriage, etc – perhaps we have forgotten their purpose or our purpose as a... )

The Israelites definitely had a low definition vision. And the low definition vision led to a fertile ground for judging, tearing down and criticizing.

Proverbs 29:18 – "Without vision (purpose), people perish" (Without purpose, people tear each other apart)

- ii. Secondly, what is the purpose of having a purpose? We learn endurance. We don't give up. We don't endure for endurance sake, we endure for a purpose.

So that, that which we give during our enduring, will lead to a result or fruit that outweighs the rice we pay.

Because. Life is tough. Jesus gave us a head start on this in John 16:33 – “In this world you will have trouble”. Challenges are complex. Troubles are draining. Problems are distressing. Temptations abound.

Turn with me to King David in 2 Sam 11:1 – 4 -

In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, <sup>3</sup> and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, “She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite.” <sup>4</sup> Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her.

King David has a role. But he forgot his purpose in the spring. And he easily yielded to temptation. He gave up his sense of doing right. He disobeyed God.

Friends, we may have roles. But just because you've got a role, that doesn't automatically mean that you are fulfilling its purpose.

You see, without a purpose, we easily give up. We can give up our morality, our worth, our future, our dreams, our health, our relationships and the list goes on. We become easily swayed, sidetracked, distracted, and end up not only unproductive, but, many times, like King David, destructive. Destroying our lives and others around us.

What's the purpose of having a purpose? We gain focus and learn endurance. (Perseverance – character)

Let's look at Jesus. I thank God that Jesus showed us a wonderful eg – He has purpose – John 10:10&18.

<sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

<sup>18</sup> No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

He has a purpose and he chooses to do all He can to fulfil it. He didn't leave it to chance or to circumstances or to the whims of people.

Phil 2:8 says “And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!”

He didn't complain. If Jesus were to complain, his reasons would be valid. Mankind who rejected Him and wrongly accused Him. But He did not. He humbled himself – because He has a purpose. He was focused.

He endured to the end. He knew His purpose and He fulfilled it. He was tempted and He was opposed. How many feel like that? Yet Jesus persevered till the end right up on the cross. He had a purpose.

Jesus was no chicken without a head, friends. In fact I liken Jesus as an eagle – who sees far and sharp – who knows His purpose & has fulfilled it on the cross.

This evening, God wants you to look at Jesus and embrace His purpose for your life. Jeremiah 29:11–13 says “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and you will find me when you seek me with all of your heart.”

Your purpose in life is a bright one. And God is more eager to show you your purpose than your desire to want to know it.

For some, God is wanting to give you a life-long purpose. You do not have a relationship with Him. This is the place to start.

For some, you have grown cold and forsaken your first love. This is the place to start. Come to God. He is the ultimate purpose of your life.

For the rest of us, as we begin this year – let’s us purposefully look at the remaining 11 months and ask God – what’s your purpose for the role I play – as a student, or parent or worker or spouse or leader?

Come to God. You find your purpose in God. Seek God with all of our heart. God will be found.

He will transform you from a headless chicken to be like Him, an eagle who will soar, and eagle who is focus, who endures the weather because there is a glorious, beautiful bright destiny for those who seek Him.

Wait upon Him – God will renew your strength.