**NORDY’S LUNCH**

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**“What’s the Driving Force of Your Life?”**

In boardrooms like this, leaders everywhere are asking: Who are we? Where are we? Where do we want to go? How do we get there?

They remind me of Einstein’s confession: "If we knew what it was we were doing, it would not be called research, would it?"

They’re all searching for the right recipe to mobilize their resources to achieve a common objective. But they’re inundated by a torrent of business intelligence, customer profiles, best practices, and on and on. And they’re identifying their core competency, their unique business drivers. What will best drive them toward success?

**QUESTION** What are some of those business drivers? world-class service, innovation, global presence, maximizing shareholder value, market leadership, speed to market, listening to the customer.

**QUESTION** Individuals have driving forces in their lives as well. What are some? good health, long life, fame, power, influence, happiness.

In his current best-seller, THE PURPOSE-DRIVEN LIFE, Rick Warren cites five of our most common drivers: guilt (running from regrets), resentment/anger, fear, materialism, and the need for approval.

**QUESTION** If we were to ask those who know you best, “What’s driving his life?” what would they say? Would you agree? If not, what would your answer be?

Bookstores and seminars bulging with self-help experts insist that to find meaning in life, we must look within our selves. Like Thoreau, they urge us to “Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you’ve imagined.” But is that where the answer lies?

To learn what an invention’s purpose is, we must go to the inventor, or to his diary or instruction manual.

The Bible says we were made BY God and FOR God. It says He had good reasons for creating you and me, and that if we never know and understand those reasons, life will never make sense to us. But if we discover what God’s purposes are for our life, we’ll live what Jesus termed an “abundant life.” We studied this when we went through the Gospel of John here at Nordy’s recently. **Let’s read John 10:9-11 (page 799).**

In his book Rick Warren gives five great benefits of living a purpose-driven life, according to our Creator’s design:

1. Living a purpose-drive life gives meaning to your life.

“Without God, life has no purpose.

Without purpose, life has no meaning.

Without meaning, life has no significance or hope.

**Let’s read Jeremiah 29:1, 4, 10-14 (page 589).**

1. Living a purpose-driven life simplifies your life.

It gives you a foundation upon which to make wise decisions.

It leads to a saner schedule because you have just enough time to do God’s will for you. If you’re overextended and not getting everything done, you’re trying to do more than God intended for you to do. **Let’s read Isaiah 26:3, 4 (page 527).**

1. Living a purpose-driven life focuses your life.

Being selective makes you effective, lets you concentrate on what’s most important. Without a clear purpose, we flail. But just as when light is focused by a laser, we gain new strength. **Let’s read Ephesians 5:8-17 (page 871).**

1. Living a purpose-drive life motivates your life.

Purpose produces passion! **Let’s read Philippians 3:4b-16 (page 874).**

1. Living a purpose-driven life prepares you for eternity.

We weren’t put on earth to build a legacy, but to get ready for what comes next. This is merely the warm-up. **Let’s read Romans 14:10-12 (page 845).**

Paul says there’s a test coming which each of us must take, but since God wants each of us to pass it, He’s given us the questions in advance:

1. God will ask each one who’s ever lived, “What did you do with my Son Jesus Christ?” He won’t be interested in our religious background, our charitable generosity or other good deeds. He’ll want only to know: “Did you place your full confidence in what He did for you, and did you learn to love and trust Him? **Let’s read John 14:1-6 (page 803).**
2. And God will ask each of us, “What did you do with what I gave you? Gifts, talents, opportunities, energy, relationships, resources. Did you use them for your own aggrandizement, or for the purposes for which I made you?”

WHAT IS THAT OVERARCHING PURPOSE? **Let’s read Romans 11:36 (page 844). The Living Bible reads, “Everything comes from God alone. Everything lives by His power, and everything is for His glory.”**

To reflect the glory of God is why every thing and every person on this earth exists. What is God’s glory? It’s His nature, status, splendor, power, His attributes. It’s who He is.

Living for God’s glory is the greatest achievement we can accomplish in this life. How to do that is summarized by Rick Warren in God’s five purposes for your life and mine:

1. To worship God, i.e, to enjoy Him with our total being. **Let’s read Romans 6:11-14 (page 840).**

2. To love others. **Let’s read Romans 15:5-7 (page 846)…..and Matthew 22:33-40 (page 736).**

1. By becoming like Christ (in how we think, feel and act). **Let’s read Romans 8:28-29 (page 841).**
2. By serving others with our gifts (according to how God wired us). **Let’s read I Peter 4:8-11 (page 902).**

5. By telling others about Christ and how much He loves them

The Gospel was not intended to be a secret. Intimately personal, yes. But not private. It’s a great privilege to help others discover their God-given purposes in life, and to help them prepare for eternity. **Let’s read Romans 10:9-13 (page 843).**

Rick Warren sums up the benefits of knowing God’s purpose for creating you and me like this: It will “reduce your stress, focus your energy, simplify your decisions, give meaning to your life, and, most important, prepare you for eternity.”

We have a choice: will our lives be driven by our own goals, or by our desire to live as God built us to live? Simply put, will you live for yourself, or for God? The Bible says *real* life begins by making Christ the center of your life. John tells how to do this: “To all who received (Jesus), to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God” (John 1:12). Believe. Receive. If you haven’t told Jesus that already, now’s the time, today’s the day. The stakes are high. “Whoever accepts and trusts the Son gets in on everything, life complete and forever” (John 3:36a).

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