

III. The Method of Our Course: Proclamation, People, and Prayer

A. Course Overview

B. Mid-week one-to-one Bible reading

Conclusion

Today, all sorts of subjects are eagerly pursued; but the knowledge of God is neglected. We see with what zeal everyone follows his own interests, while scarcely one man in a hundred deigns to devote half an hour a day to the knowledge of God..... Yet to know God is man's chief end, and justifies his existence. Even if a hundred lives were ours, this one aim would be sufficient for them all" (John Calvin, *Commentary on Jeremiah*,

Course Outline:*

- Mar 9 The Reason for Existence: Why Did God Create the World?
- Mar 16 The Futility of Sin: What's Wrong with the World?
- Mar 23 The Knowledge of God: How Can We Know God and Ourselves?
- Mar 30 The Mission of God: What is God Doing in the World?
- Apr 6 The Death of Christ: How Does the Cross Change My Life?
- Apr 13 The Transformation of Christians: What Are We Fighting For?
- **Apr 20 No Class (Resurrection Day)**
- Apr 27 The Methods of God's Mission: What Should Christians Do?
- May 4 The Mission of the Church: What Should the Church Do?
- May 11 Our Mission at Work: What about Monday through Friday?
- May 18 Our Mission with the Church: What about the Lord's Day?

Questions?

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* This course is based on Tony Payne, *The Course of Your Life* (Matthias Media, 2011).

THE POINT OF YOUR LIFE: GOD'S MISSION IN JESUS CHRIST



Class 1: The Reason for Existence

Why Did God Create the Universe?

Introduction

So what is the paradox? It is that we have never had so much and yet we have never had so little. Never have we had more choices, more easily accessible education, more freedoms, more affluence, more sophisticated appliances, better cars, better houses, more comfort, or better health care. This is the one side of the paradox. The other side, though, is that by every measure, depression has never been more prevalent, anxiety higher, or confusion more widespread. We are not holding our marriages together very well, our children are more demoralized than ever... they grew up in good homes, had all they wanted, went on to college, (perhaps) entered the workplace, they are nevertheless baffled by the emptiness they feel. Their self-esteem is high but their self is empty. They grew up being told they could be anything that they wanted to be, but they do not know what they want to be. They are unhappy, but there seems to be no cause for their unhappiness. They are more connected to more people through the Internet, and yet they have never felt more lonely. They want to be accepted, and yet they often feel alienated. Never have we had so much; never have we had so little. This is our paradox (David Wells, *God in the Whirlwind*, 2013, Kindle Loc. 337-352).

Class Aims:

1. Understand the reason that God created the universe and you.
2. Comprehend the presence that God has in our lives.
3. Discuss the method of our course and Bible-reading assignments.

II. The Meaning of Our Existence: Why Are We Here?

A. God is _____ (Gen 1).

...no one call look upon himself without immediately turning his thoughts to the contemplation of God, in whom he "lives and moves" [Acts 17:28]. For, quite clearly, the mighty gifts with which we are endowed are hardly from ourselves; indeed, our very being is nothing but subsistence in the one God.... Indeed, our very poverty better discloses the infinitude of benefits reposing in God... from the feeling of our own ignorance, vanity, poverty, infirmity, and - what is more - depravity and corruption, we recognize that the true light of wisdom, sound virtue, full abundance of every good, and purity of righteousness rest in the Lord alone.... Knowledge of ourselves not only arouses us to seek God, but also, as it were, leads us by the hand to find him (John Calvin, *Institutes*, I.1.1).

B. God created us _____ (Acts 17:24-27).

C. *What does it mean to be a creature of the sovereign God?*

1. We must give to God _____.

2. We must receive from God _____.

3. We must confess before God _____.

III. The Mode of Our Experience: With Whom Are We Here?

See Psalm 139

A. Where is God in our lives?

B. How should we feel about God's presence in our lives?