

BRINGING THE WORD OF LIFE

E-MAIL NEWSLETTER

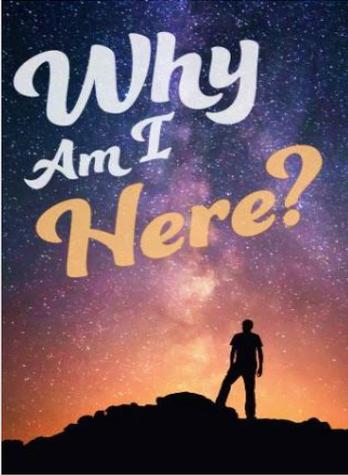
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...that you may know that you have eternal life.' 1 John 5:13

newlife@btwol.com

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Have you ever looked up into the night sky and asked, 'Why am I here?'

If you have, you're certainly not alone. Most people have had these thoughts. If *you* had to answer that question right now, would you say your purpose is to: "be a good parent" or "find a cure for a disease"? Maybe you would say, "because I'm a good athlete" or "to make others happy" or possibly "I don't know." Whatever your answer is, the fact that we ask, "Why am I here?" reveals something very important about us. We sense that we have a purpose—that there is more to life than simply what we can see or touch or taste or hear.

Think about this: have you ever seen an animal—a dog or cat, or even a chimpanzee—wondering about the meaning of life? Granted, you can't tell what an animal is thinking, but have you ever seen an animal pray, construct a temple, make an idol, or kneel in worship? Of course not! On the other hand, every human culture involves the worship of something. Why is this? The reason is simply that all people possess a spirit. Our God-given spirit is what gives us the ability to connect with and worship the One who has created us and loves us. Our spirit is no less a part of us than our bodies and minds. Sadly, though, we become so good at drowning out our spirit that we seldom notice it at all.

We flood our senses with music, movies, food, and drink; we flood our minds with school and work. Then, when our spirit reminds us "There is more to life," we try to quench the emptiness with more of the same unfulfilling distractions.

Sometimes we think, "If I had more money, then I would be happy." But many wealthy and famous people have tried to find happiness and fulfillment through every luxury and pleasure money can buy, only to end up more unhappy and miserable than ever before. This is because *until we address our spiritual needs, we cannot possibly be fulfilled.*

So what do we need?

Well, if your car wasn't running right, you would look in the owner's manual or take it to a mechanic. You certainly wouldn't take it to the grocery store or beauty salon for a tune-up! The same goes for us: we need to go straight to the source and see what God's "owner's manual" (the Bible) says about our purpose. There God clearly states that He made mankind to worship Him and glorify His name (**Psalm 86:9**).

Naturally, we all live for our own glory. In order to live for the glory of God we need a new spiritual life, nature, and purpose from God. The "Manual" says the problem is our sin: "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (**Romans 3:23**). It also says, "The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord, searching all the inward parts" (**Proverbs 20:27**). God uses the spirit He has put inside us to reveal the darkness of our sin and produce a sense of our need of salvation and a relationship with the One who created us. For this to happen, our sins must be removed.

How can that happen?

God loves us so much that He has made the way! He sent His Son, Jesus, to bear the punishment for our sins by dying in our place. When He rose from the grave, He proved that sin can be defeated. How can we receive the benefit of this? We need to turn to God (repent) and put our trust (faith) in who Jesus is and what He has done.

The Bible says, "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved" (Romans 10:9).

Trust Jesus as your Savior, and all your sins will be washed away! Then you can begin a relationship with God that will result in living for His glory. By following God's guidance through His Spirit and His Word, you will no longer wonder "Why am I here?" Instead, you can live a life full of meaning and purpose, with the joy and satisfaction that comes from knowing and fulfilling His plan for you.

(Moments with the Book)

ARE YOU WHITE-WASHED OR WASHED WHITE?

There would seem to be no difference between these two as they seem to be saying the same thing; however, the following will show the difference:

WHITE-WASHED:

When I was a boy we used to make whitewash out of rock lime, water and fish skins. It did a nice-looking job on an old fence or out building, that is until it rained or the hot sun got at it, then it would become flaky and come off showing the same drab colour as before.

WASHED-WHITE:

This would mean that something was already white but had become stained or soiled and needed a good cleaning to restore it to its original beauty.

The Lord spoke of the Pharisees as being WHITE-WASHED in **Matthew 23:27** like WHITED (white-washed) sepulchres (tombs) which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but are within full of dead men's bones." Outwardly they appeared righteous but inwardly they were sinful. I see people today like the Pharisees seeking acceptance with God through the same WHITE-WASHING

MORAL WHITE-WASH:

Turning over a new leaf does not blot out the old one. Quitting your bad habits is a good thing to do, **BUT** it won't make you right with God. It is only a WHITE-WASH job.

God says, "Not of works lest any man should boast." **Ephesians 2:9**. Again, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us." **Titus 3:5**. Then there is:

RELIGIOUS WHITE-WASH:

- Becoming religious
- getting baptized
- joining a church
- **won't make you right with God.**
- Taking the "so called" communion
- saying your prayers

all might seem like "a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end--death"

Proverbs 14:12.

Pilate could wash his hands in a religious ceremony, but he was still a guilty sinner in God's sight. **Matthew 27:24**. Others try:

SOCIAL WHITE-WASH:

The harlot. drunkard and adulterer can reform by quitting all their sins. and that is good in itself. but it's only a WHITE-WASH job. "Who can say I have made my heart clean. I am pure from my sin?" **Proverbs 20:9**. BUT there is:

WASHED-WHITE:

We read in **Revelation 7:14** how the saved of earth have been WASHED-WHITE in the blood of the Lamb. Now this is not the same as being white washed. The man was white to begin with. for we read in **Genesis 1:26** God said, "Let us make man in OUR IMAGE after OUR LIKENESS" Man became soiled in the Fall. **Romans 5:12** "For by one man (Adam) sin entered into the world." Again, **Romans 3:23**, "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. as that would only cover your sins for a little while; BUT what you need is to be WASHED-WHITE through the blood of the Lamb. This will make you clean and acceptable to God. **Hebrews 9:26**". He appeared once in the end of the world(age) to PUT AWAY sin by the sacrifice of Himself."

1 John 1:7. "... the blood of Jesus Christ His Son CLEANSETH (not covers but washes away) us from all sin."

You don't need a WHITE-WASHING as that would only cover your sins for a little while; BUT what you need is to be WASHED-WHITE through the blood of the Lamb.

**WHITE WASHED MAY BE
ACCEPTABLE TO YOU AND TO
MAN BUT IT IS NOT
ACCEPTABLE TO GOD**

You must be WASHED WHITE in the blood of the Lamb. You can too, if you will REPENT of your sins. In **Acts 17:30** God commands it, in **Luke 13:3**, it's REPENT or PERISH) and TRUST in the Lord Jesus Christ and His sacrifice for you.

"Believe (trust) in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." **Acts 16:31**.

"Without the shed-ding of blood there is no remission." **Hebrews 9:22**. (Harold Smith)

**Which are you WHITE-WASHED
or WASHED-WHITE?**



'The Heavens declare the glory of God...' Psalm 19:1

It Took A Miracle

1

*My Father is omnipotent,
And that you can't deny;
A God of might and miracles-
'Tis written in the sky.*

CHORUS:

*It took a miracle
to put the stars in place,
It took a miracle
to hang the world in space;
But when He saved my soul,
Cleansed and made me whole,
It took a miracle of love and grace!*

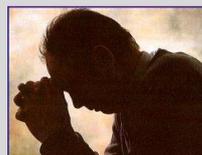
2

*Though here His glory has been shown,
We still can't fully see
The wonders of His might, His throne-
Twill take eternity.*

3

*The Bible tells us of His power
And wisdom all way through,
And every little bird and flower
Are testimonies too.*

POINT TO PONDER



**Come now,
and let us reason together, saith the
Lord; though your sins be as scarlet,
they shall be as white as snow;
though they be red as crimson, they
shall be as wool. Isaiah 1:18**

Bringing the Word of Life,
PO Box 12,
Carrickfergus,
Northern Ireland.
BT38 7YD.

www.btwol.com

newlife@btwol.com