



By

Mark McGee

Why?

One of the big questions in life is “why am I here?” As people who believe God’s Word, we know He created the human race for **Himself**. Until we understand that and search out its meaning in our life, we will miss out on the abundant life Jesus came to give us. Say this to yourself: “I am here for God.” Say it again: “I am here for God.” Are you comfortable with that statement? If we are “here for God,” then everything we do and say is for God. If we are “here for God,” then we think about Him, listen to Him, talk to Him, plan our lives around Him, and talk about Him with other people. If we are “here for God,” then living every day for God is a natural occurrence. Living every day for God is not out of the ordinary if we are “here for God.” So, what does that mean to you? What does it mean to live your life for your Creator?

Two other questions: Are you **ready** to meet God today? – and – Do you **want** to meet God today? We may not see each other again at church or work or at the market or in the neighborhood this week because some or all of us may be in Heaven before then. We belong to God and are here for His purpose, so He may decide to bring us home to be with Him this week. People who don't know God would say that's crazy talk, but it's natural for believers. We know God made us for **eternity**. Going to Heaven is not a surprise for us because it's our eternal home. It's the promise Jesus made to His disciples. He is preparing a place for us and when our place is ready He will bring us home. We know that our life on earth is just the beginning of **knowing** the Everlasting God. Our physical death on earth is not an end to life, it's the door that opens up the fullness of life to us forever.

The other point is “wanting” to be with God as soon as possible. We want to be with the people we love the most. My heart aches to be with God. I understand how Paul felt when he said he was torn between going to Heaven to be with God and staying on earth to help believers. Going to be with God was better for him – staying on earth was better for them. It’s also the feeling we have when a brother or sister in Christ goes to be with God. We are sad for their family and for ourselves because we’ll miss them, but overjoyed for the one who goes to Heaven because we know how wonderful that will be for them. And it’s also wonderful for God! He brings His children home to be with Him at just the right time. The death of a saint is precious to God – not because they died, but because they now stand in His Presence, fully alive, knowing God face to face, in all His Glory.

Yet, at the same time, we know that this life we have on earth is our one chance to serve God while living in a mortal, sin-scarred body. That may sound a little crazy, but I think it's important to realize that God has given us the great privilege of demonstrating to Him just how much we love Him – how much we appreciate what He's done for us – by **choosing to love Him** and **abandon the desires of sin** while still living in a sinful world. The choices we make in Heaven will be far different than the choices we make here on earth. Corruptible puts on incorruption and mortal puts on immortality when we meet God in Heaven. The choices we make now for God are made in bodies that are tempted and tested daily. Living for God in Heaven will be extremely easy because we will leave sin behind. “Death will be swallowed up in victory” – “God will give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!” Choosing to love God and serve Him now while living in sinful flesh is hard, but it is possible because of **His Word** and **His Spirit** living in us. I think there's something very special about a Christian choosing to give God everything they are and everything they have while on earth. This is our “proving” ground.

If we agree with what God says in His Word about life, then we will live every day as if it could be our last day on earth. We agree with God that life is fragile and not in our control. We agree that it is a mist that appears for just a moment, then vanishes away. Jesus told His disciples not to focus on tomorrow or next week or next year. He told them to focus on today, because that's what we have – **we have today**. The promise God makes us about tomorrow is that we will be with Him forever. What a blessing!”

“Scripture taken from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.”