

*WHY AM I HERE?*

*(Part II)*

Acts 9:3–6, 20:17–24

Woodland Park Church of Christ

4 August 2019

Someone once said that the two most significant days in a person's life are –

1. The day s/he is born.
2. The day s/he figures out why they were born.

One really cannot grow and develop until s/he determines their purpose.

Saul's life took a dramatic turn when he determined his purpose in life.

He would never be the same.

The things he once did no longer moved, bound, or excited him.

Between Saul's encounter with the Lord on the Damascus Road (i.e, after he realized his purpose), until his meeting with the Ephesian elders at Miletus (**Acts 20:17–38**), his life had taken a 180° turn.

# I. Finding Purpose Provides Direction and a Sense of Being

*Immediately, he (Saul) preached Christ in the synagogues, that He (Christ) is the Son of God.” Acts 9:20*

Hear the 12-year-old, precocious Jesus after his parents expressed their concern after looking for him for three days–

*“Why did you seek Me? **Did you not know that I must be about My Father’s business?**”*

**Luke 2:49**

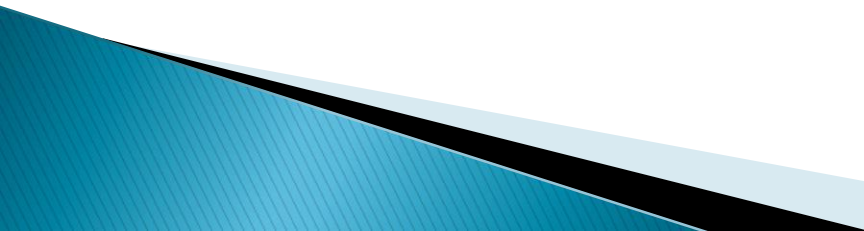


## **II. When We Are Purpose-driven, Challenges and Opposition Don't Stop Us**

Threats and perils to Paul were immediate, frequent and unrelenting, but he indefatigably met his challenges and stood up to the forces of darkness.

### III. Living Out Our Purpose Allows Us to Live (and Ultimately Depart) This Life with Few Regrets

I have heard people say, I wish I had spent more time or been more faithful—

- ▶ In the service of the Lord;
  - ▶ With my family;
  - ▶ Visiting the sick;
  - ▶ Helping those in need.
- 

Paul seemed to be always about fulfilling his ministry.

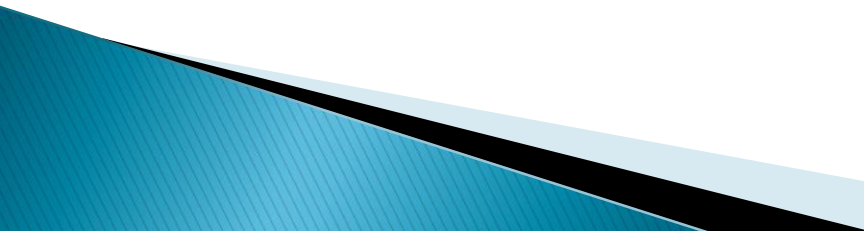
You do not read a lot about Paul living in regret or failing to do what he was called to do!

**To the contrary →**





*For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. **I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.** Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing. **II Timothy 4:6-8***



- ▶ Have you thought about your mission and purpose in life?
- ▶ Remember Paul's question on the road to Damascus –

*“Lord, What do you want me to do?”*  
**Acts 9:6**

- ▶ Always remember the immediacy with which Paul responded--and how he remained true to, and persistently lived out, his purpose.

# Lord's Invitation Extended to All

- ▶ **Be added to the Lord's body**
  - Hear the gospel (Acts 15:7);**
  - Believe the gospel (Acts 8:37, 15:7);**
  - Repent of sins (Acts 2:38);**
  - Confess Christ (Acts 8:37);**
  - Be baptized for the remission of sin (Acts 2:38);**
  - or**

# Lord's Invitation (cont'd)

- ▶ **Be reconciled unto the Lord (1 John 1:8–9); or**
- ▶ **Desire prayer (James 5:16).**

***LIVE VICTORIOUSLY BLESSED!***