

Why Are You Here?

By Steve Farrar

I got a question for you as we kick off tonight, and it's a very simple question. The question is why are you here? And there are probably a number of answers you could give. Now, I have to tell you, to me, it's kind of interesting walking in here and getting scanned when you walk in here, you guys are what I would call a captive audience. I only have those when I speak at Biola or at a prison. But hey, I'm glad you're here. That's great. So the question is, why are you here? And there are a whole bunch of answers to that. Some of you, you know, say, well, you know, I couldn't come this morning, so I'm coming tonight, or some of you are from, you know, get a Bible study going on somewhere and you decided to come up here. But when I ask the question, why are you here?

Those really aren't the answers that I'm looking for. When I ask the question, why are you here? What I'm really asking you is this. I'm asking you why do you exist? That's the question. That's the central question in life. Why do you exist, why are you alive, why are you walking the face of the earth now and not three hundred years ago, or why would you not be alive three hundred years from now? It is.

See, that's that's what we think about all the time, we think about, we think about meaning, we think about purpose. We think about why am I alive? What is this? Is there a plan? Is there a purpose? Is that's the central question of life. And as you go through life, that question will come up time and time again. I have a premise tonight and my premise is this. My premises, the Christian life is a trail, a trail.

There are many famous trails in America on the East Coast. You've got the Appalachian Trail runs from Georgia up to Maine. If you hike the Appalachian Trail, it'll take you five months, six months, maybe it's over two thousand miles long. You go to Mississippi, there's a trail they call the Natchez Trace. It's just a trace. It's a wisp of a trail. We live in Dallas, just north of Dallas. We live not too far, about a quarter of a mile from what was known as the Chisholm Trail.

They ran a lot of cattle up the Chisholm Trail. Let's say one hundred fifty years ago, you were looking to get a new start. You heard you could homestead some fertile grassland in Oregon. So

you provisional wagon, you guys get your wife, you get your kids and you start heading to Oregon. Now, you've never been to Oregon before in your life. You've got two options. The first option is you just start heading west and you'll probably figure out you think on your own.

The second option would be to get on the Oregon Trail. Now the Oregon Trail. Let me tell you the advantage of getting on the Oregon Trail. The Oregon Trail is a marked trail. There is always wisdom in getting on a marked trail, the Oregon Trail, with a trail that had been marked by those who had gone before and successfully reached the destination. As you would go along the Oregon Trail, you would see graves from those who didn't make it, but many did make it.

And they marked the trail. As you go through life and you're just getting started on the trail, you're here in college. So let's say roughly you're twenty years old. This book, this book is a marked trail. It is. It is given to us by the inventor of life. It is given to us by the creator of life who breathe life into you, who called you into existence when you worked. And he has a purpose for your life.

And this trail that is in this book, we'll show you how to live. Jesus spoke of two trails. Jesus said Broad is the road that leads to destruction. But narrow is the gate that leads to life. You grew up in a Christian family, one of the things your parents were trying to do when you were in junior high or middle school or in high school, they were trying to teach you to withstand peer pressure. Why were they doing that?

When you're a parent, you'll do the same thing with your kids. The reason you try to teach a kid to withstand peer pressure is that parents know that most of your peers in middle school or junior high school. Most of your peers in high school are on the wrong trail, going in the wrong direction. Now you're in college, now you're going to Christian University, most university students in America are on the wrong trail, going the wrong direction.

You're going to get out of college, you're going to hit your 20s, most people in their 20s are on the wrong trail, going the wrong direction. 30s, 40s, all the way through life, most people are on the wrong trail going the wrong direction. That's why the Christian life, you're always going upstream, you're never going downstream. You're always going against the current. You're never going with the current. See, the vast majority of people are on the wrong road, going the wrong direction.

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But Jesus said, but narrow is the gate that leads to life, and few are those who find. That's the trail every day when we get up, we choose the trail all over again, you choose which trail it is that you're going to get on. The Bible is the best selling book of all time, and we thank God for that, the second best selling book of all time is a book that was written about three hundred years ago by a guy who was in jail for 12 years.

His name was John Bunyan. He was a great preacher. Phenomenal preacher when they threw him in jail, everybody was just so sad and so upset and they couldn't understand why God would allow that, because why would you lock up such a powerful preacher? Well, when Mary and I were in England last year and we visited Bristol, England, where he was imprisoned, we saw the cell arrangement. He had a day cell in the night so they would lock him up at night.

But during the day, they would give him an office, quite frankly, an office with a desk. And the reason God put him in jail was so that he could write books that people would read three hundred years from. Then he reach more people through his writings than he ever would through his preaching. He wrote a book called Pilgrim's Progress, which is a story about a guy named Christian who's on a trail, see the Christian life as a trail.

You're on a trail. I'm on a trail. Think for a minute with me. Of all the verses in the Bible that speak of the trail where you can't think of any canyon. I had you there for a minute. I've never seen the word trail in the Bible of you. I haven't either. But let me ask you something. If you ever see the word have you ever seen the word paff? What's path, it's a trail. I got another one for you.

Have you ever seen the word way, WBAY, I'm not talking protein here. What's away? Away is a path away is a trail. The Christian life. The Bible speaks of the trail all of the time. If you have your Bibles like you throw in this almighty because it's all night. We associate we associate psalms with David because David wrote half the Psalms. But in Seoul, NITI, we find that Moses wrote a song and he is speaking of the trail of life.

Now, most of you here tonight are in your 20s. You know, you're 18, 19, freshmen, sophomores. You're right around 20. You're going to hit 20. Notice what? Notice what Moses says in in Samiti. He has some great wisdom here about the trail of life. I'm breaking in a new Bible. My other Bible was perfect. I just blow on it and go to the Rite passage, you know what I'm talking about, but I'm working in a new one, so it takes me a little longer here.

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So all night you want to know. Verse 10, this is Moses. Now, Moses says this. As for the days of our life, they contain 70 years or if due to strength, 80. Yet their pride is but labor and sorrow for soon it is gone and we fly away from the majority of you here are right at twenty. I might have said this the other day in chapel. There are two issues in your 20s. The first issue is what am I going to do?

The second issue is who am I going to marry? Those are the two issues are the 20s and you got to figure it out yet. That's why you're here. You're working on it. Hey, anybody here in the thirties, I'm just curious, like to see your hand if you are. Yeah, great. We're glad you're here. You can't believe you're thirty because you were just eighteen, you see, because the verse says soon it is gone and we fly away. We can't believe how fast life.

Rachel graduated from here a few years ago and she she lives in Texas now. And we were sitting around the kitchen counter the other night and we were just talking and she said, all right, I got to leave. And she walked off and I'm looking at her. She's twenty five years. I can't believe she's twenty five years old. Because three years ago, she was 10. See, soon it is gone and we fly away when I was a kid.

Christmas would never come. I remember that. I mean, when I was a little kid, Christmas came about every three to four years. That's how it felt. And even when you were a little kid from Thanksgiving to Christmas, that's a year and a half right there. Christmas would never come. It was so slow. Now, Christmas about every four or five months. Why? Because the older you get, the faster life's going by. Soon it is gone and we fly away.

So you hit 30. You can't believe you're 30 because you were just 18, but now you're 30. And see when you're 30, see those you they're 20. By the time you're 30, you're going to be married. You have kids. You kids run around, they get stuff out of their diaper. They got snot coming down their nose. It's great. You can't sleep, you can't get a moment's peace, all those wonderful years to look forward to and it's going to happen, and I'm telling you, they're great years and you wonder, I don't know how I'll ever get through this.

You'll get through it and then introduce you to it. You're going to miss them. That's just how life works. So you're going to be at 30, you're going to have bills and you're going to have mortgages. You're going to have all the stuff and all this pressure. It's going to be wonderful. It will be. And then one day you wake up and you're 40. You can't believe you're 40. How many of

you in your 40s? I'm just trying to put your hands up if you can get them up. See, that's when the rotator cuff starts to go right about 40, but you can't believe you're 40 because you were just twenty five. See, life's moving quickly. We have a term called midlife crisis. A lot of guys, when they hit 40, they get weird.

And this is absolutely true. There was a study done at Yale under a guy named Daniel Levinson and they studied men. And the term midlife crisis comes from something they discovered about men. A guy is shaving in the mirror one morning shaving to look at himself. He's getting ready to go to work. He's somewhere. He might be thirty eight. He might be forty one, somewhere around 40. As he's shaving, it hits him like a ton of bricks that half his life is over.

That's a shock to see when you're in your 20s, you've got all these goals and hopes and dreams and aspirations. But one day guys, you'll be shaving and you're looking in the mirror and all of a sudden you realize half my life is over. And all those things, all those goals and hopes and dreams, you're not going to make it. You're not you're not going to get it done. And guys go into crisis and guys get weird and guys tend to get off the trail because you see what happens is guys realize I'm not going to be young forever.

There's nothing worse than seeing an old guy trying to look young. You know, I'm talking about these 58 year old guys walking around with earrings know, hey, man, grow up, you're not 18, be a man. Face it, it's a let me tell you something. Maybe you're saying, well, maybe I'm in a midlife crisis. If you go to Costco and you buy Rogaine by the barrel, you might be in mid-life crisis if you trade in your pickup for a red Mazda Miata and you can't even get in it.

And you got to call triple to get you out, you're in mid-life crisis. There's another group of guys who go through a midlife crisis or shave, and one day they're looking in the mirror and it hits them like a ton of bricks that half their life is over. And you know what's interesting about these guys, all their hopes and dreams and goals and objectives when they were in their 20s. They made it. They surpassed it. And those guys going to the deepest crisis of all, because they've got what everybody else is busting their tail to get, and there's still that emptiness in their gut, because happiness doesn't come from things.

Happiness comes from relationships and stuff doesn't cut it. You get on the other side of 40, so here's what happens, guys hit 40 and they get weird, they start thinking, I got to be young, I got to stay young. And so what they do is they start looking for some sweet young thing who's naive

and foolish, who's got a great body and a small mind. And some 40 year old guy went off with some twenty seven year old chick, I mean, guys like this all the time, I meet them and they go to evangelical churches and times are on church boards.

I meet them all the time. I run into them all the time. I gotta tell you, I'm sick and tired of 40 year old Christian men leaving their wives and leaving their kids and running off with some young chick. I'm tired of it. You know what? I'm going to be honest with you. I've seen this so many times happen. I remember our daughter had a friend when she was in junior high school and this little girl was over at our house quite a bit.

I remember the day she came over and she was dressed in all black. She never looked that way before. She had on black lipstick. She had on black fingernail polish. She walked. I mean, she walked in. I didn't recognize you. I realized who it was. They were going somewhere. She walked out. I looked to America, said, Mary, what's that all about? She said, Did you know that her dad and her dad's a pastor?

Did you know that her dad took off with a woman in the choir and walked out on the. A little girl is in mourning. That little girl was in grief because her father killed her. You know what, the motivating factor in that girl's life for the rest of her life is now, she's twenty five. She's done very, very well academically. She's walked away from the Lord. She's in schools in Ivy League. She's getting her master's and doctoral.

You know why she never, ever will put herself in a position where she's dependent on a man, where she has to trust him again because her father broke her heart and killed her.

I run into guys like this all the time in Christian churches, you know, like to do with those guys, like to beat the crap out of them in the name of Jesus. Now, you can't do that, but I would like to lay hands on them, of course. You know what happened to those guys, they went off the trail, they went nuts, they went crazy, they went insane, that happened some sometimes. What I'm saying to you is as we go through life at every section of life, you get through that hard time in the 40s that what you know you know, it's interesting.

You guys get through their 40s and somewhere in the 40s is Bob Buford is pointed out and this will happen to you see in the 30s, the word is success. You're trying to be successful. You're trying to climb the ladder. You're trying to make it in the 40s. As Bob Buford's pointed out, the

word becomes significant. This is why a guy will leave a job making three hundred thousand dollars a year and go become a high school baseball coach because he wants to do something he wants to do in the lives of young men.

He's not looking for success. He's looking for significance. Then one day you wake up in your fifth, you can't believe you're 50 because you were just thirty five. I'm fifty five this month, I know you can't believe that because of my youthful interim appearance. Now, Mary and I, this is Mary. Yes, this is Mary right here. Mary. Mary is a member of the Little People of America. Now, I am I am a month older than married, we'll both be fifty five here in just a few weeks.

I look like I'm seventy five. She looks like she's thirty five. I came out ahead on that deal, but it happens. You get older, you get miles on your tires. It's just the way life works. You see, I can't believe I'm fifty five. My grandpa was fifty five. My mom and dad live up around Pismo Beach, my dad's eighty one, my dad can't believe he's eighty one. I was just up there a few weeks ago.

My dad in high school is a great athlete, went to college on a basketball scholarship. If you ever saw the movie Hoosiers, that's what happened to my dad. Little tiny school in Nebraska, Scottsbluff High School. They went twenty six a. won the Nebraska State title play, the championship game and the field house at Lincoln, Nebraska. My dad, a friend of his that played on that team with him a few years ago, sent him a picture from nineteen forty one when they won that state title of them having the victory parade in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, downtown.

It's about three blocks long and everybody's in overcoats because it's winter. And there's my dad sitting on a flatbed truck. He's about six foot three. Good look, my son John looks a lot like my dad. They're very similar, and there's my dad sitting on the kids everywhere. Everybody's, you know, there's my dad in that coat. And then I see that because they've got it in the guest room. I walk into the kitchen and there's my dad, 81 years old.

He's not as tall as he was because you have bone loss the older you get. Isn't that amazing? My dad can't believe he's 81. How many of you are in your 80s? How many of you are in your 90s? If you're 100 or 110, can we see your hands, where are those people? But he say. He said, Ron, yeah. Sorry, Ron. Hey, you're looking good, Ron. You're drooling, but you're looking good.

So where are the people that are. Where are they you want to know where they are? They're dead. That's why they're not here. They couldn't be here tonight. They really wanted to come, but

they couldn't make it. Now, you know, why bring that up? Can I tell you why bring that up? That's where we're going. You're 20. You're going down a trail and one day you're going to die and decisions that you make now in your life are going to have consequences for the rest of your life.

Are you 20? You've never been 20 before. You've been 18, but you've never been 20. See, when you're 20, you're going down a new stretch of trail you've never seen before. Are you thirty two, you've never been thirty two, you've been twenty five, you know what that's like, but you never been thirty two. Are you 40, wherever you are? See, I've been fifty four, I've never been fifty five. So you were always on a new stretch of trail.

That's why Moses says insanity. If you look down at verse 12, he says, so teach us to number our days that we may present to the heart of wisdom. You know, we all have in common here. Most of you are college students. So all of us here are older, 20, 30, 40, 50, wherever you are in life, you know, we have in common we all need wisdom because you've never been down this stretch of trail before.

You need the wisdom of almighty God in your life right now, today, so you don't pick the wrong trail and you don't screw up your life. I love the Psalms. David wrote half of them. See, the question we're asking is, why are you here, why are you alive, why do you exist in someone one thirty nine, which is one of the greatest to the solms? Seem to me the solms is like a great mountain range.

Know you got the Sierra Nevada, you got the Rocky Mountains. If you've ever if you've ever driven into Colorado from the east, you've been on the plains, it's real flat level, kind of boring. And then off in the horizon, you'll see the jagged outline of the Rockies. See that? That, to me is salt. Some of the songs are bigger than others, are longer than others, but they're all connected. One hundred and fifty of them, just like a mountain range.

One of the greatest of the songs, the song. One hundred and thirty nine in someone thirty nine. David is going to answer the question, why am I alive? Why do I exist? Why am I on the face of the earth? There's a reason you're alive. He answers that. He answers that question in Psalm one thirty nine, verse thirteen. But I want you to catch something. David doesn't answer that question. In verse one, he answers it in verse thirteen.

Now stay with me here. You got to think. All right. We are a culture that worships self when I run into guys, some of you, your fathers have abandoned you. Your dad raised you in a Christian church. Your dad took you to Sunday school. Your dad was committed to your mom and he's left some of you in this room know if that little girl dressed in black felt like because that's happened to you. You say you understand that totally and you understand that completely, whenever I talk to a man who does that, he's always justifying himself, he's always making excuses.

He's always got 100 hundred reasons why he's a victim. But what it all comes down to, the reason he is left is because he's selfish. He worships self. We don't worship bail in this culture. We worship self. We bow down before self, we're into self self-fulfilment, self realisation, self understanding, self actualization. Dr. Phil has written a book called Self Matters. Self does matter, but it's not the most important thing. You know what Jesus said?

Jesus said you're to take up your cross, follow him. Jesus said, deny your what? Well, there's an interesting concept. I can't wait for that to get on Oprah. They don't talk about that. Nobody wants to deny themselves. But you see, some of you have been hurt because somebody in your life wouldn't deny themselves. They did what was best for them. Instead of for you and you've been hurt, deeply wounded. David, if you want to know why you're alive, if you want to know your purpose, you don't start with yourself, you start with God.

David didn't begin with himself. Most people in our culture, they start with themselves. If you start with yourself, you'll never find your purpose because apart from God, you'll never discover your purpose and why you're alive and why you're walking the face of the earth. So in answering the question, why am I why? Why am I here? David starts with God in verse one. There's some great stuff here about God. Let's get a running start, you guys with me, are you are you cold?

I see I see these girls, like, in parkas, and I feel like I'm in a ski retreat or something. And the guys are just loving this and they got a short sleeve shirt just in that amazing difference. Yeah. I don't know why you're whuppin.

I just thought I'm observing this. All right, David doesn't start with himself. You want to know your purpose, you want to know why you're alive, then start with God. What does he say about God? I love someone. Thirty nine, one thirty nine of psalms. Here's what he talks about. Talks about the greatness of God, the majesty of God, the power of God, the sovereignty of God. God knows everything. God is everywhere.

If I could title someone thirty nine. You know what I title it. I title it. My God can beat up your God. There are a lot of false gods in this world. Allah is a false God. All is a counterfeit. Got some Christians are confused. Well we all worship the same God. That's baloney. The Koran says that Allah did not have a son. Yea we did have a son. And he came to this earth, he was born of a virgin, he lived to send this life, he went to the cross is an atonement for your sin and for mine.

He was buried. He rose Botley on the third day. He appeared over five hundred. At one time, he ascended to the father. He's at the right hand of the father and he lives forever to make intercession for us. One day he's coming back and he's taken over. He has a son and says he doesn't have a son, Quran is wrong, Grams, a fourth book, the Koran says, are that Allah is not triune. Well, Allah is not your way because you always try you.

He's Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. You see, our God can take any God. I was speaking at Amines Deal in Oregon last year, and these guys live up in Sisters Oregon, middle of nowhere up in the Cascades. Gorgeous. But we're not having to deal in sisters. We're going far eastern Oregon. So we get in these trucks. We start driving out in the middle of nowhere. I mean, we're driving and driving for two hours.

And finally, we're on this gravel. We're on this road. It's got it's asphalt. But we turn off and there's this gate. I mean, it's the building. And we get on this gravel road and we and we drove in eight miles. The road was so rough that that four trucks broke down on the road. And I'm thinking, where the heck are we going here? I mean, there was nothing around. And I'm just I'm looking.

And finally we come around the bend and here are these buildings, these beautiful buildings. There's a there's a airfield, there's a landing strip. There are condominiums. There is a field house that will probably probably twice as big as this one there. There is a small complex of shops. I mean, in the middle of nowhere, there's and I'm set and I'm saying, what is this? They say this is a young life camp. I said young, like, built this. No, they bought it. Who they buy it from. They bought it from a guy in the back one she rajneesh that if you were alive in the 60s and 70s, your parents would know about this guy. This guy wasn't the guru from India. There used to be videotape of what they would do in order to join this guy's cult. You had to sign over everything that you had to this guy. I remember seeing film of what would go on.

Have you ever heard of whirling dervishes? They would they would all meet and he would walk in and they would have the music going and they would get it up to a demonic pace and level. And these people would circle and circle and circle and circle and circle for hours until they would literally drop over in exhaustion. There was unbelievable sexual immorality there. There was a demonic presence that was there. People's lives were broken and lost and obliterated in sexual morality and idolatry and things beyond imagination.

That's what happened there. It was a horrible thing. And now kids from the inner city are brought there and their lives are set free. When they find out about Jesus Christ, you see, they don't worship the bag one anymore. They worship the Lord Jesus Christ. My God can beat up your God. That's a great thing. They just took that thing over, not just for the glory of God.

What does he say about God here? Catch some of this stuff, he says, oh, Lord, you search me and known me. You know, when I sit down and when I rise up, you understand my thought from afar. That's an amazing thing about God. He understands us. Sometimes you don't understand ourselves. I was driving down the road a while back and I was upset, someone was really bothered me, you know, I was just kind of angry and I kind of caught myself and I thought to myself, why am I so upset?

And you know what? I didn't even know. That's how screwed up I am. I was mad and I wasn't even quite sure I was mad about 30 years ago, there was a bestselling book called I'm OK, You're OK. I want to write a book sometime called I'm Screwed Up. You're Screwed Up. We're just all screwed up. That's why we need Christ. So I'm so screwed up. I don't even understand sometimes. Well, I'm upset.

God knows I don't understand. He goes on this and he says, you scrutinize my path and my line down. You're intimately acquainted with all my ways. God knows everything about you. He knows your idiosyncrasies. He knows the nuances of your personality. He knows about you. He loves you. Hey, can I ask you something? Does God love you? Right, let me ask you something else. Does God like you? You want to hear some good news?

He likes you, he's on your team. What do you have kids, you'll love them to death. I remember one weekend Mary was gone with Rachel. They were out somewhere and I just had John and Josh at home and they were probably like four and maybe a year and a half. And so we're having

a great time where I got them in the bathtub. We're going crazy. I bring in the garden hose. We're just going nuts because Mary's not there.

She didn't know about it. So I thought I'd better go get some towels. When I come back, I get some towels and I come back. And you know what? They pooped in the tub. They were having to poop off. And when I saw that, you know what, I got a little upset and then you know what I did? I started laughing because it was really funny, and then we had to use another bathroom for three days because I wasn't cleaning that up.

I'm just being honest with you now, I have to clean it up, but it was funny. You know what's interesting to me about my lesson, my kids and my kids were little. You get them out of the tub. There's something that little kids get them out of the tub and they're naked. They just want to run around. I mean, it's like somebody, you know, wound them up. They're naked and not ashamed. And that's why you know, why they can do that, because they know they're loved and they know they're accepted and they know they're liked.

God loves you and God likes you. God made you gods for you. He understands your thought from afar. Let's keep moving here. He's intimately acquainted with all your ways. Catch this even before there's a word of my tongue. Behold the Lord. You know it all. Every word you'll ever utter for the rest of your life until the moment you die. God already knows what you're going to say in the nuance and the articulation with which you'll say it.

There's a false teaching going around right now called open theism. Open theism teaches that God does not know everything is going to happen in the future. That's also called heresy. That's what it is. You know what amazes me a lot? There are a lot of guys in seminaries that think this is a Microsoft Word document. I said this on Monday, I'm going to say it again, they think it's Microsoft Word. How many you guys use Microsoft Word. All right. Microsoft Word is great because you can cut. You can paste. You can delete. You can move it around. You can change it. This is not a Microsoft Word document.

This is the word of God. You don't change it. You don't touch it. You may not like it. It's still the word of God. This is nonsense. God does not know everything about the future, really. And then you read the books more carefully and they'll say, well, God doesn't know your personal choices because you haven't made them yet.

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Really. Jesus said to Peter before the cockroach's, you told me three times, that's what you call a personal choice. God knows everything. God knows everything about you. He knows everything about the future. That's why there's a book called Revelation. That's why Daniel wrote about in Times. That's why Ezekiel wrote about in Times. This book is an amazing book because this book is full of fulfilled prophecy. See, God knows the future. That's how prophecy is fulfilled.

God knows the future because God is sovereign. He goes on and he says this, it's on one thirty nine. He says, Behold the Lord. You know it all. He says this is amazing. He says, You've enclosed me behind and before. I love reading biographies. I try to read one hundred and fifty bucks a year now, I don't I don't have a real job, so that's why I read a hundred fifty books here.

I speak and I write. If you're going to speak and write, you better have new material. So that's why I try to read three to four books a week. Just what I do now. I try to read through the Bible every year, I do read through the Bible every year. Why? Because I'm going to teach the Bible. I got to know the Bible. That's what I got to do. That's what I'm called to do. I love reading biographies.

Every time I read a biography, I learn something because everybody's got a story. Every biography I've ever read breaks up in the chapters. If we handed everybody a legal pad and we gave you this assignment, he says, you've enclosed me behind him before you have a back trail and you have a front trail. If we were to give you a legal pad and we were to give you an assignment, look back over your life, everything that's happened that's brought you to this point in your life, here's your assignment.

Write out the chapters of your life. Every person in this room could write out the chapters of your life. You could write, you could put a title, you could have a beginning, a middle and an end, because there are chapters in your life, you can see them clearly as you look back. You know what's amazing about God, who you are, 20, you're trying to figure out who am I going to marry? What am I going to do?

What do you want me to do with my life? He's got a plan. He's written chapters for you that are is clearly marked as the ones you've just come through. You just can't see him. Not yet. Years ago, I was talking with an executive guy, bigshot with IBM. He'd been laid off. IBM didn't lay off people. He thought he had a secure job. This guy had a plan. His plan was to be with IBM for about another eight years and he was going to retire.

He'd be set for the rest of his life. And to his shock, IBM laid him off. He was trying to come to grips with this. We're having lunch. We're talking. He's got a lot of anxiety. He's got a lot of worry. It's understandable. It was a curveball he wasn't counting on. And as he's expressing all this exciting, I said to him at one point, I said, you realize, don't you, that IBM didn't lay you off?

So what are you talking about? Of course, they laid me off. I said, no, IBM did not let you off. The Lord Jesus Christ laid you off. He said what I said, do you really think that a committee of guys at IBM holds the destiny of your life in their hands? Do you believe that the king's heart is like channels of water in the hands of the Lord? He turns it whatever way he wishes. If God wanted you at IBM eight more years, you'd be at IBM eight more years.

That was your plan. It wasn't his plan. His plan was that chapter would come to an end. That's freaking you out because you had this great plan. But you see, if you could look ahead 10 years and see the chapters that God has already written for you, you wouldn't be sitting here being anxious. You'd say, thank you, Lord Jesus, for the great plan. That's not my plan. You see, God is sovereign. God runs all things God runs IBM.

Did you know that God runs Microsoft Word, God runs Bill Gates. God runs Iraq. He runs Ayran. He runs Saudi Arabia. He runs that bozo in North Korea. God runs everything. God is sovereign. Read Psalm hundred and three. He is the sovereign king who rules. RC Spruill says in God's universe, there's not one maverick molecule. He owns it all. He runs it all in that amazing. You starting to get a picture that God is big now we can talk about ourselves.

You got a minute? What are you going to say, no good to verse 13 real quick, we got to move verse 13 now he's going to talk about why am I here? Why am I like, why do I exist? That's the central question. But you've got to get God straight first. God's big God's running the show. God's got chapters written for you in inversed 13. He says, here's why you're alive. He says, for you, for my inward parts, you woke me in my mother's womb.

That's an amazing statement. This is why you're here. Got a question for you. Why are you white? Why are you black? Why are you Asian or Hispanic or Native American? Why you want to know why? Because God formed you and fashioned you. Why are you tall? Why are you short? Why are you good at music? Why are you good at math? Some of you math is easy. You

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have an aptitude for math, you enjoyment. How many of you math is just you enjoy it. You kind of love. Yeah. I hate your guts.

I've always resented you people, you screwed up the curve. Hey, I was just trying to pass, you know what I mean? Hey, if you're good at math, I'm happy that you're good at math. You want to know why you're good at math. When God formed you in fashion, you in your mother's womb, he gave you an aptitude for math. That's why you're good at math. Some of you have unbelievable people skills. You walk into a room of 300 people that are strangers in five minutes.

You've introduced yourself to everyone. You've introduced everybody to everybody else, and you've got a party on your hands. How do you do that? You love people and people love you. That's a gift from Almighty God. He put it in you and he formed you in fashion, you in your mother's womb. Some of you guys are good with your hands there. Guys around here to keep this plant running. They're always fixing things up. Guys building this thing.

There are guys out there repairing cars. It's amazing to me how guys can do that with their hands. They can fix anything. If I break down out on five, I'm there for weeks. I've seen some of you guys. You're driving down five, you're your engine explode. You got flames coming out from under the hood. It's unbelievable. You calmly pull over to the side, you pop the trunk, you pull out of hoist, you switch engines. In ten minutes, you're on your way. How do you do that? I've noticed a lot of guys that are good with their hands, I think they're not smart. Sam, you're brilliant.

See, the public school system in America, there are probably seven kinds of intelligence, the public school system in America only measures and rewards to out of the seven kinds. If you're good with your hands, you're brilliant. That's a gift Almighty God gave to you. God has given you gifts. God has built gifts into you. Can I give you a tip? The purpose that God has for you will somehow be related to the gifts he's put into your life.

The angriest men I ever meet are men who work in areas of weakness, they're not good at what they do. They hate their jobs. They dread going to work when they're at work. They watch the clock all day long. They can't wait to get off. They go home. They can't relax. They've got to get back in the morning and do it all over. They hate what they do.

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Don't you ever do it? You work in an area of God given strength, he's made you good for a reason, he's given you a gift, and when you employ it, you're happy. You can't believe you get paid for doing that, that it means you're working an area of strength. And when you have kids, help your kids identify the strengths God has put within them, that your parents do that for you. Great. If they didn't, you've missed out.

Someone else is going to have to help you discover that when you have kids, help them identify where they're good and where they're strong and encourage them in the way that God has been for them. He's made you good at something, he's giving you gifts. Sometimes we meet people and we're impressed this happened to a bunch of that, I meet someone and I just appreciate what they can do in their gifts. And I gosh, I wish I could be like him.

That ever happen to you? I wish I could be like I wish I could be like her. You know what? God doesn't want you to be like him. God wants you to be you. Because God has made you. He has formed you, he's fashioned you, he's put you together. He's given your personality. He's given you your temperament. He wants to reflect his grace and goodness through the prism of your life because you're unlike anyone who's ever been made in the history of the world.

You're unique. He loves you. He likes you. He goes on to about, why am I alive, why do I exist? He says, I'll give thanks you for I'm fearfully and wonderfully made. He's on an ego trip. He's just saying, God, I can't believe you made me. He goes on, he says this, My friend was not hidden from you when I was made in secret and skillfully wrought or skillfully embroidered in the depths of the earth.

Why are you here? Why are you alive? Why do you exist? I got a question. I got a bunch of questions tonight. Here's my next question. If your father had not have married your mother, would you be here? This isn't a trick question. The answer is no. What if your dad had married that cheerleader from that other high school that he had a crush on? You don't know anything about this. But don't you think your dad, before he met your mom, there was some gal he was interested in dated and maybe I'll marry you.

What if he hadn't married her? Would he? If he hadn't married her, would you be here? No, because for you to get here, it took the exact sperm and an exact egg. And that cheerleader didn't have the egg. Your mother had the egg. Is that not true? It's absolutely true. But he didn't marry

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that cheerleader. He married your mother and they had you. And here you are. That's why you're here. That's pretty wild, isn't it?

What about Grandpa? What if Grandpa had to marry that girl from that of the farm? Would you be here, you wouldn't be here, but grandpa didn't marry that girl from the farm, he married grandma, they had your dad, he met your mom. Boom, you're here. What about great grandpa?

Have you ever thought about what it took to get you here? Do you realize that for thousands of years, God has been overseeing your family history? He is overseeing every relationship, and as those man, woman, man, woman intersects over the centuries of life, if just one man had to make one wrong woman just once in that sequence of events, you wouldn't be here. But you're here. Got a little nephew. What's his name? Isaiah holds Isaiah.

He's three months the junior by Isaiah. Two years ago, God knew about Isaiah. Two years ago. God knew about Isaiah one hundred years ago. God knew about Isaiah ten thousand years ago. Is this your sister? Was your sister interested in any other guy before she met or did she marry that got no, no, you can tell us a story later, but she didn't marry the guy she married and they got it. You know something else.

You know what's amazing? God knows who your kids will be. He already knows their names. He knows who they will marry. God knows who their kids will be. You know, something I do all the time. I pray for my kids, kids. None of my kids are married, I pray for their kids all the time. I don't know who they are, God knows. Let me tell you something, I pray for them to God.

When those kids come into this world, I pray God to protect them from homosexuality. I pray God will keep them from sexual immorality. I pray God will keep them from drug use. I pray the sovereign hand of God will regenerate them and bring them to Christ. And I pray for those whom they will marry and I pray for their kids. That's an investment I can make in the future because God knows all things. That's how big he is.

God wanted you to be alive and exist, and that's why you're here. Can you guys go about seven more minutes? I'm a preacher. I mean, 20. I'm getting close. He says your eyes have seen my unformed substance. This is wild. Jim Dobson had a remarkable picture on the cover of Focus on the Family newsletter a while back. It was a picture of a twenty four week old unborn child. A

pediatric surgeon was getting ready to go in and operate on a twenty four week old unborn baby in its mother's womb.

They figured out there was a spinal problem. Is that not amazing, that they can operate on a twenty four week old unborn child? You see the hands of the physician, the gloved hand, you see the scalpel, the incision in the mother's stomach as he's going in to operate on this twenty four week old unborn child, suddenly a tiny, perfectly formed little human hand reached out and grabbed the surgeon's pinky finger. A nurse had the presence of mind to run out and get a camera and get the shot.

That's not a fetus. That's a baby made in the image of almighty God. Isn't it? We got an election coming up. Don't we? How are you going to vote? Now, me throw something out to you when you vote. You vote the word of God. I'm not talking Democrat, I'm not talking Republican. You vote the Bible. Some 15 speaks of integrity, talks about a person who walks with integrity for almighty God. Some 15 says this.

In verse four, some 15 verse force is a man of integrity, is it going to shock? Some of you despises a reprobate. But he honors those who fear the Lord. A lot of Christians are registering to vote. That's a good thing. I was recently at a big meeting about eighteen thousand guys. And they said, hey, we want everybody to vote, Christiania, everybody to vote, and then the emcee got said, Lord, give us wisdom on how to vote.

It was on a Friday night, the next morning I got up, I'm doing some 15 on integrity. I get the first four, I said last night we asked God to give us wisdom on how to vote. You know, it's really great Psalm 15 for tells you how to vote and that amazing how God answered our prayer. There's a principle in Zone 15 for it says, in whose eyes, if you have integrity and you walk with God in your eyes, a reprobate will be despised.

What's a reprobate? A reference to someone who is against God, who is in rebellion to God, who hates God's word, who hates God's laws, encourages others to be disobedient to God see in our culture. Now, do reprobates need Christ? Yes. But what they do is wrong and it's evil. See, some of you getting very uncomfortable. Because what's happened is we've been influenced by the world, we're afraid to speak out against Sen.. So what I said to these guys, I said, let me ask this, says, In whose eyes a reprobate is despised to our culture, says you have to accept reprobates.

Our culture says you have to approve of reprobates. Bennett says, but you honor those of your award. So I got up and I said, you're praying that God will give you wisdom on how to vote. Let me help you with this. Let me ask you a question when you get in that voting booth. Do you despise reprobates or do you vote for him? Let me get even more clear. There is a procedure called partial birth abortion.

We're talking about the Lord forming little children in the womb, aren't we? I got to tell you something. The most holy thing you'll ever see in your life is when your child is born. The presence of God is there, it is a it is a wholly awesome, precious moment. There is a procedure called partial birth abortion. They're always playing with terms. It's live birth abortion. A full term healthy baby is born. Nothing wrong with this child.

Nothing. The doctor takes scissors, jams it into the skull of the healthy little baby, perfect little child, takes a catheter, sticks it into the cavity, sucks out their brains. That's partial birth abortion. I want to tell you something about that. That's wicked. It's godless. It's a stench in the nostrils of a holy God. Now, that is so wicked that the Congress and the Senate passed laws against it. Clinton twice vetoed it.

Because he's a reprobate. I'm sorry, don't you start telling me he's a believer. He's a Baptist, he's not a believer. You say you're judging him. You're damn right I'm judging it because we're to judge those. Read First Corinthians five. A man living in sin with his father's wife, Paul says the pagans don't even do that. Then Paul says, remove that wicked man from your midst. Paul says, What do I have to do with judging outsiders?

The answer is nothing but those in the church we judge. You said what Jesus said, judge, that a judge not lest Jimmy judge before you judge your brother, you take the plank that's in your eye before you take the. He didn't say don't judge. He said judge yourself before you judge Galatians six one bretheren. If any of you were caught in any trespass, let those who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Looking to yourself, you judge yourself before you judge somebody else.

You guys still with me? Am I losing you? Here's what I'm saying. Partial birth. There are Christians and they walk into the voting booth. That's a that's a horrible thing, is it not, that procedure? Would you agree with that? Of course you'd agree with it. You think that's terrible?

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That's just some of you see tears around here that someone would do that to a little child that's done all over America. So why would you vote for a guy that goes for that?

Why would you do that? You said, I'll tell you why you do it, most people, so I'm personally opposed to that. Yeah, but he's for it. You know why people do that? You know what they vote for guys that go for stuff like that because of this. I like his economic policies, I think he he's going to do this for the economy, he thinks and I'm speaking all these guys on this issue, I said the reason you'd vote for that is this.

You think this guy will bring more jobs in your community? The next verse in song 15, you know what an expert says, it says, A man of integrity. Does not take a bribe against the innocent. That little baby is innocent, isn't it? That little baby can't defend himself. I want to be crystal clear, you walk into a voting booth and you're opposed to that, but you vote for somebody who is for it because you like their policies and you think that's going to help you financially.

You have just taken a bribe against the innocent and you have become an accessory to murder. I gave that talk three times, three times about three days later, I got a call, Steve, we got a little we got a little flak. So you got flak? Yeah. Would you get flak over. Well, when you said the Massachusetts Supreme Court, where a bunch of fools we got flak over that, I said, well, they are.

That's on 14 one the fool has had in his heart. There is no God. They're fools. They're highly educated idiots. They're fools. They know God exists. They know in their heart. It's Romans one verse eighteen. They're always there. They're denying the truth, professing to be wise. They became as fools. Well, some guys got upset. Some other guys got upset. Because what you said about the abortion thing, I should really I said, you know why they got upset.

Why, because they're doing what I talked about. They really got upset. We took an exit poll. I said you shouldn't take exit polls. What do you run an election? You know what he said, Mosquita? Really good. I said, you know what? I don't give a rip what they thought. Hey, I'm not I'm not asking for their vote, I'm here to declare truth, I'm not trying to get a better score from the Argentinean judge.

This isn't the Olympics. I'm here to declare the word of God. You know, I'm saying I just know it. Well, they didn't like it, I don't give a snort if they liked it or not, because the audience isn't

sovereign, why would you why would you take an exit poll? Who gives us not what those guys think? They're not sovereign. God is sovereign. Well, we got some flak. You know, what does this happened to be three times the fourth time I got a call where she if you could change your talk, if you wouldn't, you know, we don't want to actually know what you're an appeaser.

You're appeasing these guys and they're in sin. I got an idea. Why don't you get up and give the talk this weekend, because I'm not. And as soon as I said that, I thought, what have I just done, and, you know what I thought of. You know, many books I can sell when there's 18000 Geisa. And I keep the lights on, I make a living by speaking and selling books, and as soon as I took the stand, the first thing I thought about was this.

Those are little babies. You know, we need America, we need someone who can't be bought with a price because they have been bought with a price, you know, I'm talking about those are babies and we've got to take a stand. Some of you let me tell you some some of you are voting for reprobates and say, well, Steve, we've got economic issues. You know, I need listen, why don't you trust the Lord Jesus Christ to provide for your needs?

Sikhi third, the kingdom of God. That's what it says. Sikhi first. And all these things shall be added on to you if no one aborted you did they? Aren't you grateful God has a purpose and plan for your life? I'm done. I'm going to finish. We're going to finish this tomorrow night because this is only the first half. Can I say this to you? God has a work for you to do and you can't die until you do it.

Last last point, I was flying from Dallas, Oklahoma City, about twelve years ago. There have been thunderstorms, tornadoes all night. It was a horrible night. I had a six o'clock flight to go up there and speak Saturday morning. There's only five or six guys on the plane. There was a window we got off the ground. As soon as we did, we were sorry. It was unbelievable turbulence. You strap it on. Everybody's trying to act cool.

Everybody scared to death. I mean, rock roll throwing up. It was unbelievable. Forty five minutes up there. We couldn't wait to get down. We break cloud cover. I can see the ground. I said, great, we're in. And just as we're coming in, a siren goes off in the cockpit. And an automated voice says wind shear, wind shear, wind shear, let me tell you what that means. That means you're going to die.

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Wind shear takes planes and drives them into the ground. If you fly a lot like I do, you know about wind shear, a plane in Dallas went down in nineteen eighty eight, killed two hundred and fourteen people one hundred yards from the runway. Wind shear drove it into the ground. The guy this is frightening, huh, Windshear, the guy in front of me, I want to tell you what he said out loud. Here's what he uttered, a profanity.

I'm just going to go and tell you and don't write me letters. There's a reason I'm telling you, Windshear Winshaw, the guy out loud says, Oh, shit. Now, there's a reason I bring that up. If you're going to die, you need to come up with something better than that. That boy was on the wrong trail, going in the wrong direction. I'm sitting right behind him, you know, and I said I said, Lord Jesus, I'm in your hands.

And I had a sense that I wasn't going to die, and I did. George Whitfield, the great preacher, used to get up in front of the mobs. They hated his guts. They tried to kill him. They had beat him almost to death. He'd get back up like Paul and Iconium and get back up and preach. And people say, how can you do this? And you want to say he'd say, I cannot die until my work is done.

God has a work for you to do that no one else can do. You cannot die until you do it. That's why you're alive. That's why you're breathing. We'll cover that tomorrow night. God bless you all.