What is your purpose in life?

Intro:
- songs: Room In God’s Kingdom (#620) / We’ll work till Jesus comes (#396)
- What is your purpose in life? — what is your work in the kingdom
  - Zig Ziggler’s new book, Better Than Good
    - heard interview on radio
    - passion will wear you out - sustains you for a while, but you will burn out
      - e.g., people who start something but when the passion is gone they stop (diet, exercise program, new year’s resolution)
    - having a purpose sustains you
      - when things get tough, those who have a purpose will keep going
    - illus.: Roe and Tina, their purpose is to help people - sustained them through tough times
      - their purpose: help people, show others God and Christ and the church by exhibiting Christ in their lives through helping people - story of their conversion
      - their purpose sustains them: reason to live through terrible trials
- Christian’s purpose (general): - review
  - Ec. 12:13-14 fear God, keep commandments, judgment
  - Matt. 6:33 seek first God’s kingdom and righteousness
  - Mk. 12:30 love God all heart, soul, mind, strength
  - Rom. 12:1 living and holy sacrifice, acceptable
    - but no one can do everything in God’s kingdom — what is your purpose (specialty, talents) - remainder of lesson

What is your purpose in life? — no one can do everything
- leading other to Christ with the gospel — everyone can help
  - Acts 8:1, 4; 11:9 Christians scattered, told others - evangelism: Christians telling others
  - everyone can do it - various ways, various talents, everyone participates:
    - be a good example / light shining in darkness (Eph. 5)
      - illus.: Allan, felt successful if I could just be a good example that day
    - invite / bring to church - be a friend: bring your friends to church
      - illus.: Gerald Scearcy’s conversion to Christ
    - tell others about your life and faith
      - illus.: talk about the most important things (God, Jesus, church, salvation, etc.) - upcoming series, Conversational Evangelism
    - family: raise godly family, help parents and spouse and siblings get to heaven
      - illus.: Joseph and Mary - lead your family in the way of God, others who can go out and tell more people
- living testimony (proof of something) of God in your life - His blessings (Conversational Evangelism) — everyone can help
  - Rom. 12:1-2; Phil. 2:15 prove - show others God and Christ and salvation by your life - living testimony
    - illus.: lame beggar
      - Acts 3 lame beggar who was healed / - Acts 3:8-11 beggar’s testimony, praise God
    - illus.: today
      - illness recovery / health
- financial blessings: rich / poorer
- families God has blessed us with / brethren, congregation God has blessed us with

➤ - encouraging brethren — everyone can help

- 1 Th. 5:11 our job is to build each other up as you are doing — SL

➤ - Eph. 4:11-12, 16 church, building each other up

➤ 2 - Heb. 10:24-25 assembling, stimulating

- illus.: greeting one another, before and after (2 Cor. 13:12)
- illus.: singing “all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs” (Col. 3:16)
- illus.: Ryan, congregations visited, SL warmest and friendliest — edifying, evangelistic

- how today:
- greeting and encouraging others at the assemblies
- share in the work together: church building, in community, visiting others
- having brethren in our homes
  - house to house (Acts 2, Pentecost)
  - hospitality — “Be hospitable to one another without complaint” (1 Pet. 4:9)
- visiting people: physically, phone, any other form of communication
- doing things together: spending time together - we encourage one another by just being around each other

➤ - working in the congregation: teaching / leading / doing chores — everyone can help

- 1 Cor. 15:58 abound in the work of the Lord, toil is not in vain
- being leaders: older women toward younger women / youth / elders and deacons / teachers
- physical facility: doing the work that needs to be done with the physical facility - need lots of volunteers
- teaching (formally, informally): Bible class teacher, participant in Bible class, conversational teaching, example
- elderly and young: attending (Heb. 10:24-25)
- training to do the things you can’t do today
  - more capable people we have working in the congregation, the more fruitful we will become
  - tomorrow’s leaders in the church

➤ - giving: (time, talents, $) — everyone can help

- financial giving to help others who are in need:
  - 1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:6-14 command / principles of giving
    - illus.: Acts 4:32-37 sold property and gave money, shared with other in their homes
  - 1 Tim. 6:17-19 command to the rich
- financial giving to help others teach and preach the gospel:
  - Phil. 4:14-19 financial support of teachers: increased your account, acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing, God supply all your needs
- working with hands to help those who are in need (time, talents): (don’t have to have money)
  - Acts 9:36-43 Tabitha’s death
    - Acts 9:39 evidence of Tabitha’s good deeds, heart-felt sorrow, how much Tabitha meant to them
      - probably not wealthy, made them herself rather than buy them
    - illus.: Dawn in hospital at birth, food from Leesburg church, what meant to us, emotion
  - Gal. 6:10 do good to all, esp. those of the household of faith
  - Ja. 1:27 pure and undefiled religion, visit orphans and widows, unspotted from world
Summary / Conclusion:
- What is your purpose in life?
- What is your purpose in the Lord’s kingdom (church)?
- What is your purpose in this congregation?

- have a clearly defined purpose:
  - if you have a clearly defined purpose for yourself, it will help sustain you for the long haul - for a life of service to God in good and bad times

Inv.: purpose as Christians - fear God and keep his commandments - do His work - zealous for good deeds