

WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO END UP?

By Robert J. Tamasy

Can you envision preparing to take a business trip but having no idea where you are going – or why you are going there? Sounds ridiculous, right? Because it is. When planning to travel, whether for business or personal reasons, we usually have a destination. Unless we are just responding to an adventurous impulse and decide to go for a drive, we first determine where we are going and for what reason.

Many people, however, do not conduct their lives in the same way. They embark on their journey through life with little idea of where they are going, how they are going to get there, why they are going, or even how they will know when they have arrived. As I heard someone observe recently, “Everybody ends up somewhere, but few end up somewhere on purpose.”

Most of us get up each morning and go to work, whether our own business, a large corporation, or small company. But have you ever asked yourself, “Why am I going to work?” One reason, of course, is to earn a living. Monthly payments on a house or an apartment, maybe a car payment, utility bills, groceries, and other essentials all require money. But would it not be more fulfilling to proceed to work knowing you had greater intentions than only to earn a paycheck?

A verse from the Old Testament book of Proverbs addresses this: “*Where there is no vision, the people perish*” (Proverbs 29:18). There are several applications of this principle, but without vision – a greater sense of purpose behind our vocational pursuits – we can easily become as cynical as the author of Ecclesiastes who said, “*Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless. What does man gain from all his labor at which he toils under the sun?*” (Ecclesiastes 1:2-3).

How do we gain vision, a broader sense of why God has placed us where we are, with the gifts and talents we possess? I think it starts with understanding that although He did not have to do so, the Lord has chosen us to be active participants in His work. In 1 Corinthians 3:9, for example, we are told, “*For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, God’s building.*”

Think about it – being “fellow workers” with God! Imagine receiving a personal phone call from a famous executive and being asked, “Would you be willing to help me with an important project?” Then, multiply the magnitude of that question a million times, since God wants us to be working with Him.

Writing and editing have always been my career. I spent the first 10 years as a newspaper editor. But if I had asked myself “why?”, most likely I could not have given a very good answer. Then I read a Bible verse that God seemed to have designed specifically for me. It read, “*My heart is overflowing with a good theme; I recite my composition concerning the King; my tongue is the pen of a ready writer*” (Psalm 45:1).

Suddenly I had an answer to my “why?” The Lord had given me unique abilities, passion, gifts, and experience to serve Him as a writer and editor. Monday Manna, this weekly workplace meditation created to help business and professional people discover how to integrate their faith in the marketplace, is just one of the ways I strive to do that.

What has the Lord uniquely equipped you to do? We know one thing for certain: As followers of Jesus, we are “*ambassadors for Christ*” (2 Corinthians 5:20). The question we must each answer is, “How can I be that ambassador most effectively and fruitfully where God has placed me?”

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Reflection/Discussion Questions

1. When you are intending to go somewhere, how detailed is your planning? Do you seek to have a clear understanding of where you are going, how you want to travel, and what you hope to accomplish when you arrive? Explain your answer.
2. Why do you think many people are not as precise and particular about charting the course their lives will follow? What are some of the problems with simply letting life “happen,” without a vision for where they want to go and what they hope to become?
3. Have you ever started a workday and thought, like the writer of Ecclesiastes expressed, “Meaningless! Everything is meaningless”? Whether that has been your own feeling, or one being felt by someone you know, how would you go about trying to change that sense of futility?
4. When you read that “we are God’s fellow workers,” what thoughts go through your mind? Is that a good thing, in your opinion? Why or why not?

NOTE: If you have a Bible and would like to read more, consider the following passages: 1 Corinthians 10:31; Ephesians 2:10; Colossians 3:17,23-24; 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Challenge for This Week

This week, try to set aside some time to consider the ‘what’ and ‘why’ of your work. Do you have a clear vision of where you are going, what you hope to achieve along the way, and how you will know that you are on the right course?

You might get with some good friends, a mentor, or some trusted advisors to discuss this. What are their perspectives, not only for you but also for themselves? Do you know where you are going to end up – and why?