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# THE BRIDGE

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What is the purpose of life



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A simple question, yet no simple answer.

The scientific and numerous world views vary in explanation; they either do not answer the question, do not provide a definitive answer, or simply decline to answer.

It is however important to note that they nearly all choose to take God out of the equation.

Science teaches	In reality...
Life was “a cosmic accident”.	The ‘big bang’ theory of the origins and ultimate fate of the universe does not address the <b>meaning of Life</b> .
Humanism teaches	In reality...
Humans “ <b>have the power to make good choices to create a better society</b> ” (‘better’ is subject to changing public opinion).	The current (and worsening) position of the world certainly disproves that. Being born with an inherent “sin nature” we have to be taught to do the right thing from a child, and we all agree we are inherently selfish, always putting our needs first and foremost.

Buddhism teaches	In reality...
<p><b>“The primary purpose of life is to end suffering”, to help others achieve freedom of suffering”.</b></p>	<p>Our natural sin nature, discounts this occurring on a large enough individual/ community scale for this to happen. We can't even eliminate our own suffering on a long-term basis much less the suffering of others.</p>
Atheism teaches	In reality...
<p><b>“Life has no meaning, its random - it's just a process, you live, you die.”</b></p>	<p>The 'big bang' theory of the origins and ultimate fate of the universe does not address the <b>meaning of Life.</b></p>
Spiritualism teaches	In reality...
<p>Life is about <b>“completing the give &amp; take account we have with various people” – Karma.</b> Karma Law says every positive deed we do generates a merit, and negative deeds a de-merit. So, we need to repay what we do by either continuing in happiness or unhappiness. All major events in our lives are pre-determined and in all our actions we are either settling an old account or creating a new one. They also believe that we will <b>“merge into God as our final destiny”.</b></p>	<p>We know from the Bible that we will all die once and then face the final judgement when Jesus returns, we will not live on through multiple re-incarnations.</p> <p>If our lives are already pre-determined we would be leading the same life repeatedly. Where is the chance to do something different to reach the required goal? As for <b>“merging into God”</b> - the Bible tells us we are and will “become children of God” not God himself.</p>

## The Biblical / Christian view:

God is the source of life (**as the Creator**) and as such it makes total sense that his existence is necessary for life to have meaning. God's moral code forms the basis of "*people management*" throughout the world and without it there would be mass chaos, more hurt, pain, destruction, death, wars etc. William Lane Craig, a prominent philosopher and theologian, says: "*if there is no God there is no morality... without God each of us just goes into the ground, but then what difference does it make if one is Hitler or Mother Theresa? Without an afterlife there is no accountability.*"

<b>Our purpose</b>	Humanity was created by God for a purpose; a commitment to worshipping him in every sphere of our lives and to enjoy a close and bonding relationship with Him. After much debate and thought about all areas of life, King Solomon (the wisest man who ever lived) said " <i>meaningless, all is meaningless</i> ", and he concluded that the only meaning of life is " <i>to fear God and keep his commandments for this is the duty of all mankind</i> " (Ecclesiastes 12:13).
<b>Our destiny</b>	Our understanding of our life's purpose as serving God (through Jesus), will determine our destiny. Serve God and follow Jesus' words and teachings to the kingdom and everlasting life. Don't follow and inherit hell and eternal damnation.
<b>Our hope</b>	Living in Jesus gives us continuous assurance of his help and guidance in our daily life in the here and now. When things go wrong, we have a helper, a friend, a protector; someone we can totally depend on in all circumstance. Unbelievers do not have this assurance. They can only depend on other humans who fail constantly.
<b>Gives us two (2) things:</b>	Being raised from the dead like Jesus in a new spiritual body which will never decay. The second assurance is that we will live forever with Jesus and God in an abundant and perfect world without pain, tears, killing, wars etc. Jesus calls himself The Door (the only way to God is through him), The Giver of abundant life, The Good Shepherd who leads His sheep, His flock who knows his voice (through His word the Bible and teachings), to the right path so we can get to be with God.

## Believers walk in Faith

*“For we walk (live) by faith and not by sight”*

(2 Corinthians 5:7). We therefore live by the hope and promises made by Jesus and God. We can't physically see Jesus/God but having faith in His word, the bible, and trusting and believing in what He has promised for the future because we have seen His promises fulfilled through bible prophecies, we can live in the knowledge that He is a God who never lies and will fulfil His promise to give us eternal life.

Faith is confidence in what we hope for and the assurance that the Lord is working in our lives every day even though we cannot see it. Walking by faith requires a strong determination to follow God's plan regardless what life throws your way.

The walk of faith is therefore enveloped in an understanding that the believer is guided by the spirit of God in all they do, small or great, and this spiritual guidance can only be tapped into by the open acknowledgement of this need for God and the seeking for His direction, and the waiting for His instructions. The instructions for life must be harnessed from the blueprint given to us by God, his word in the bible, so regular bible reading, and meditation becomes an important part of the development of the spiritual (Jesus) nature.

The act of love and forgiveness from God to David (after David took another man's wife, made her pregnant then sent the husband to war to be killed), shows that we too can have such a great hope, that no matter what we have done, where we have been, what we have seen, we can come before God in real sorrow for our previous sins, and what it cost God and Jesus, repent, and start a new life as a Jesus follower with a bright new hope and future.

The essential content of Christian preaching is this mystery of the Good News Jesus brought to us:

- ✓ The Good News – the Gospel Message is not and cannot be constrained by political and spiritual perspectives otherwise it is not available for all to hope.
- ✓ The Gospel Message is not and cannot be bounded by ethnicity otherwise it is not available for all to hope.
- ✓ Christ Jesus was not afraid to minister to one who had been stigmatized by society. He demonstrated that the hope was available to all.
- ✓ The empowerment through forgiveness – we should forgive so that the hope continues to be available to us.

We do not have all the answers, but as believers we have more than enough to establish faith. Christians are looking at life through the lens of Christ's love - experiencing spiritual life through the image of Christ. It is this image that will encourage and help to strengthen our faith.

From the beginning Jesus was with God, and He is God.

This same Jesus – The Son of God became flesh and lived among us.

This same Jesus died and was resurrected and returned to Heaven.

This same Jesus now sits at the right hand of his father in glory.

This same Jesus will return in power and Glory.

This same Jesus will reign on this earth forever, and all believers with Him.





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