

**QUIET TIME GUIDE  
FOR Friday 7/18/08  
FROM JACK MILLWOOD**

**Greeting:**

What do you live for? What is the most important thing in your life? That is such an important question, however, it is one most people do not take the time to stop and ask. Rick Warren wrote a book a couple of years ago entitled, "The Purpose Driven Life." It has become an all time best selling book bought by the Christian community and the non Christian community alike. The reason it is so popular is that people have not stopped and given much thought to what their purpose is and this book helped them do that. In the business world most successful businesses have done an analysis of their products and services along with the resources of their business community and have come up with a purpose for who they are and what they are to be doing. It is called a "mission statement." Once a company comes up with that missing statement then it becomes the driving force of that organization. It defines both who they are and what they do. At Crosswater Community Church our mission is to *"lead people to become fully devoted followers of Christ."* We do that through four ways. *We celebrate the savior. We convert the seeker. We cultivate the saint, and we comfort the suffering.* Doing those four things help us to do the main thing. That defines who we are and what we are to be doing. If an activity or an expense does not accomplish one of those four things then it will not help us accomplish our mission or purpose so we do not do it. It is important in a business to know who you are and what your purpose is. That is true in life and in individuals as well. What is your purpose? What are you living for? What are your goals and objectives in life? Have you ever written out a personal mission statement? Have you ever set lifelong priorities? If you have not then it becomes easy to get distracted and you end up running from one idea to another. You end up chasing one fad after another new idea. You end up spread thin and there is no telling where you end up. For the Psalmist he knew what his purpose was and what he wanted to accomplish. Consider that as you read Psalm 115. He lived to give glory and honor to a living God who had him in his hand.

**Scripture for today:**

***Psalm 115: 1*"We don't deserve praise! The LORD alone deserves all of the praise, because of his love and faithfulness. 2*Why should the nations ask, "Where is your God?" 3Our God is in the heavens, doing as he chooses. 4The idols of the nations are made of silver and gold. 5They have a mouth and eyes, but they can't speak or see. 6Their ears can't hear, and their noses can't smell. 7Their hands have no feeling, their legs don't move, and they can't make a sound. 8Everyone who made the idols and all who trust them are just as helpless as those useless gods. 9People of Israel, you must trust the LORD to help and protect you. 10Family of Aaron the priest, you must trust the LORD to help and protect you. 11All of you worship the LORD, so you must trust him to help and protect you. 12The LORD will not forget to give us his blessing; he will bless all of Israel and the family of Aaron. 13All who worship the LORD, no matter who they are, will receive his blessing. 14I pray that the LORD will let your family and your descendants always grow strong. 15May the LORD who created the heavens and the earth give you his blessing. 16The LORD has kept the heavens for himself, but he***

*has given the earth to us humans. 17The dead are silent and cannot praise the LORD, 18but we will praise him now and forevermore. Shout praises to the LORD!”*

### **Life Application:**

One thing for sure, the Psalmist did not live for his on personal edification. He did not live to become famous. He said as far as he was concerned, “*The LORD alone deserves all of the praise...*” He did not live for anything that was not real. Superficial pursuits were not what he was after. His goals, his gods were not “*made of silver and gold.*” Inanimate objects were not the substance of his lifelong pursuits. In his day men made their own gods, idols. They lived for and worshipped them. That made no sense to him. He said that those man made gods had “*ears (that) can't hear...*” “*...noses (that) can't smell...*” and “*...legs (that) don't move....*” In the end he knew that to live your life in pursuit of man made passions and goals was a waste less use of life. He said, “*Everyone who made the idols and all who trust them are just as helpless as those useless gods.*” Rather a life in pursuit of a living God and his plans was what he desired. He knew that “*All who worship the LORD, no matter who they are, will receive his blessing.*” Instead of pursuing temporal items that will fade in time he pursued a relationship with the “*the LORD who created the heavens and the earth...*”

### **Spiritual exercise:**

What do you pursue in life? What do you live for? What is your purpose? Now before you start spouting out religious platitudes and worn out phrases that we all know we are supposed to say – stop! Think about it. Don't think about what you are supposed to say. What DO you live for? Perhaps you do not even know. What is it you are chasing? If you do not know, then I can tell you what the most important thing in your life is if you will let me have access to two things. If we will let me have access to your calendar and to your bank account, I can tell you. I learned a long time ago that you can tell what a person loves by how they spend their time and how they spend their money. People invest their time and money in what is important to them. I was talking to a man this week who was telling me how all his non work time was taken up in his son's athletic events. He was taking him here and then taking him there, etc. You know what that said to me? His son is important to him. He is investing in his son's life. We live in a day and time when there are constant demands upon our time and our resources. There are competing calls for our devotion. Stop today and think about your quests in life. Are you living to make money? Are you living to make a name for yourself, to build a reputation? Are you living for a job, a career, a house, a car, a boat, etc.? I ask you to think about that. In some ways those are inanimate objects, idols. They have “*ears (that) can't hear...*” “*...noses (that) can't smell...*” and “*...legs (that) don't move....*” Can they really do anything for you? I know money can make life more comfortable and a job helps our sense of security. However, money can be gone as quickly, no much more quickly, than it came. Jobs can come and go. Reputations are made and lost. I ask you to consider that only what is done for God will last. What you pursue, what you spend all your time on, what you spend all your money on, that tells you what is important to you. Yes, that is your God. I have a mentor in the ministry who said years ago that his priorities in life are Faith, Family, and Friends. I have never forgotten that and I have tried to live by it. Maybe you ought to write our your mission or purpose in life. Set a

course. Chart a path and don't divert from it. In the end if you live your life for the Lord, if you invest your time and resources into him you will indeed be rewarded by it. When this entire man made world around us is gone then the things in our life that we have done for the sake of Christ will still be standing. I guess you could say we are "*laying up treasures*" that can to be taken away.

**Thought for the day.**

Faith, Family, and Friends are what count.