

THE PURPOSE DRIVEN



Writers H.G. Wells and George Bernard Shaw were brilliant men, yet they rejected the message of Scripture. They placed their trust in their own systems of belief, which were based on human reason. Yet they could not find lasting inner peace, and they slowly lost confidence in what they believed. Wells' final literary work, for example, has been aptly called "a scream of despair." And shortly before Shaw died in 1950, he wrote, "The science to which I pinned my faith is bankrupt. Its counsels, which should have established the millennium, have led directly to the suicide of Europe. I believed them once. In their name I helped to destroy the faith of millions. And now they look at me and witness the great tragedy of an atheist who has lost his faith."

It is when we are out of options that we are most ready for God's surprises.
— Max L. Lucado
(1955–

"When we are flat on our backs there is no way to look but up."
—Roger W. Babson

CHAPTER 1 — "IT ALL STARTS WITH GOD" — SECTION 1

DIGGING DEEPER...

1. Based upon Job 12:10 — "*In whose hand is the life of every living thing, And the breath of all mankind?*" {footnote 1, p. 18} in your opinion what would be a natural consequence of ignoring God when trying to plan our lives?
2. Romans 8:6 says, "*For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace*" {footnote 2, p. 18}. Using your own words and a dictionary define what it means "*to be carnally minded.*" In this verse, could the word "*death*" be a reference to physical death or just "*destructive thinking.*"
3. Based upon Matthew 16:25 "*For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it*" {footnote 3, p. 19} what consequences will come upon those who try to figure things out all on their own?
4. Ephesians 1:11 says, "*[God] . . . who works all things according to the counsel of His will...*" {footnote 6, p. 18}. Based upon Ephesians 1:11, what would be the practical consequence of ignoring God's purpose?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS...

1. What flaw runs through the following questions: What do I want to be? What should I do with my life? What are my goals, my ambitions, my dreams for my future?
2. How do the questions above feed disappointment or a sense of frustration in a person's life? How can they lead down false paths?
3. In spite of all the advertising around me, how can I remind myself that life is really about living for God, not myself.
4. What do you think are the implications of the first sentence of the book, "It's not about you"?