

**Stewardship Emphasis:**

**Everyday Stewards**

**Week Three:**

**“Stewards Living with Purpose”**

**Week One: “We are Ambassadors for Christ”**



Have you asked yourself the question: “Why do I exist?” Scientists and philosophers have spent countless hours focusing on this question. As God’s people, we find our answer in the first sentence in God’s revealed Word, the Bible. *“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth”* (Genesis 1:1). God created all things, and Adam, who was the firstborn of His creation, was the crown or masterpiece of all that He created. We are told that *“God created man in His own image”* (verse 27), created for the purpose of having fellowship with God and reflecting the glory of God Who created Him. We, as Adam’s offspring, are also created for fellowship with our Father.

To make Adam complete, God made him a wife, Eve. God blessed Adam and Eve with the honor and responsibility to be stewards of His amazing creation*.* (Genesis 1:28; 2:15). This responsibility and privilege to be God’s stewards has been transferred from generation to generation, and our faithful stewardship leads to the fulfillment of His purposes for our lives.

A book with text overlay

Description automatically generated**Our Purpose Lost, Reclaimed, and Restored**

In his book *Adventures in Christian Stewardship*, Rev. R. C. Rein shares how our lives and purpose have been affected by sin. Pastor Rein describes these changes as follows:

* Life’s Purpose Lost
* Life’s Purpose Reclaimed
* Life’s Purpose Restored

**Life’s Purpose Lost**: The great tragedy is that the perfect relationship between God and man did not last. When Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden apple, the trajectory of the world was changed. They were driven from their Garden paradise and were sentenced to death. Thus we, too, polluted by sin, have forsaken our original purpose of living in perfect harmony with God. Because of sin, our lives are now focused on ourselves and material things rather than on God. As a result of sin, we see ourselves as owners not stewards.

**Life’s Purpose Reclaimed**: Following Adam and Eve’s sin, the people of the world have been in a perpetual state of sin. Because of sin, God promised to send a Savior (Genesis 3:15), Who was God’s one and only Son, Jesus. Because of our sins, we deserved God’s wrath, but Jesus atoned for our sins by taking our sins with Him to the cross. By Jesus’ innocent suffering and death, He opened the gate of paradise for us. By the shedding of His own blood, He redeemed us from all sin, death, and the devil that we might once more be His own and that God’s purpose might be accomplished in our lives.

**Life’s Purpose Restored:** By Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection, our fellowship with God has been restored. The doors of paradise reopened. By God’s Holy Spirit, through His Word, we have been given faith, so we are enabled to trust God’s saving grace in Jesus. By God’s grace, we become new creatures in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). Through faith, we understand that we are stewards not owners of all that God has entrusted to us. Being united with Jesus, our purpose in life is accomplished.

The answer to “Why do I exist?” is that we live to praise God and to fulfill His purposes. Collectively our response should be that we live to do the will of the Father Who created us for His praise and Who redeemed us through Christ that we might forever be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness. We live not for ourselves, but for Him Who died for us and rose again (2 Corinthians 5:15). All that we have and receive, we owe to Him. As Christians we look upon our lives as a sacred trust. Our lives, talents, time, and money—everything we have belongs to God. We are to use it all properly and profitably to accomplish God’s purpose in our lives and to help in accomplishing God’s purpose in the lives of others.

**Blessings on your Journey to Be an Everyday Steward**