



The GOD who is|

by Pastor Rollan Fisher

The GOD who is **alpha**
The GOD who is **omega**
The GOD who is **love**



The God Who Is: The Meaning Of Life

WARM UP: Where do you draw meaning for living? Why from there?

READ: John 1:1-18, Matthew 5:2-12, Luke 4:17-19 (scriptures on pg 3)

FOCUS: We will come to know the meaning of life when we discover the God who is.

OBSERVE (10 minutes)

Who God Is (John 1:1-18)

- This mirrors the Genesis account of creation “In the beginning....”. It is declarative of origins, that *God is the creator* of all things through Jesus Christ and the physical laws of nature which he established.
- God is uncreated and all things begin with him. This is what it means that God is eternal.
- As shared in the Encyclopedia Britannica, Greek culture to whom the Gospel of John was written understood the terminology used for “Word” as that which was used for “the divine reason implicit in the cosmos, ordering it and giving it form and meaning”. “The Word” implied *the plan for and meaning of life*.
- This eternal Word became flesh in Jesus Christ. Thus *Jesus is God* and shows us the meaning of life.
- God came to have relationship with his creation through the incarnate Christ.

How He Said to Live

- Your identity in Christ is the only thing that will last for eternity.
- The revelation of who God has called us to *be* needs to shape our identity as of first reference. It is where we will find true fulfillment and the meaning of life. (Eph 2:10)
- It is through Jesus’ teachings that we learn more about the character and nature of God.
- When you become a Christian, God calls you a citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven.
- Being Christian does not mean that I no longer have an ethnicity, but it does mean my Christianity defines my allegiances, my response to offense and my activity in this world. And that response is dealt with at the cross.
- It is an idolatry of identity if you put anything before the God you worship and the manner in which he chooses to both define and liberate you. This is true whether it be nationality, ethnicity, sexuality, class or political affiliation.

What He Came to Do

- God came to restore the meaning of life by destroying the power of sin and death in fallen humanity.
 - *Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. - 1 John 3:8*
- Jesus came to bring God's forgiveness, healing, freedom, and favor to humanity.
 - *And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." - Lk 4:17-19*
- Jesus can help you in your anxieties, comfort you in your fears and free you from your resentments. He has stood in your place at the cross to shoulder your guilt. By his resurrection from the dead Jesus provides hope as you press through life's discouragements. God does so because he made you and understands you.

REFLECT AND DISCUSS (30 min)

- Since God created all things and is himself uncreated, discuss what impact this has on creation. What is creation's responsibilities and comforts by knowing this?
- When we remove the crutches of physical accountability, we see where our passions truly lie. What am I giving myself to when no one else is around? What do I choose to invest in and pursue?
- Jesus claimed and proved himself to be God. Have you acknowledged this in your heart? Have you received forgiveness of your sins and His gift of eternal life?

PRAY & TAKE ACTION

- Acknowledge the God of the Bible as the ONE true God, uncreated and eternal, who came in the flesh as Jesus Christ.
- Pray and thank him for his mercy and goodness revealed in Jesus Christ's life, sacrificial atoning death, and resurrection.
- Ask him to forgive you and heal you from finding your identity in created things and ideologies rather than Christ.
- Thank him for making you a 'new creation in Christ Jesus' free from slavery to sin. Pray for your friends and family to find identity and purpose in Christ.

"The terrible, tragic fallacy of the last hundred years has been to think that all man's troubles are due to his environment, and that to change the man you have nothing to do but change his environment. That is a tragic fallacy. It overlooks the fact that it was in Paradise that man fell."

John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

Jeremiah 2:11-13

Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods? But my people have changed their glory for that which does not profit. Be appalled, O heavens, at this; be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the Lord, for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water

Ephesians 2:10

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Matthew 5:2-12

And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: 3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. 5 "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. 6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. 7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. 8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. 9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. 10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you

Galatians 3:27-29

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise

Luke 4:17-19

And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, 18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor".

1 John 3:8

Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

Resources and Quotes

“Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance, the only thing it cannot be is moderately important.”

- **C.S. Lewis**

“Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.”

- **Westminster Catechism**

“Everyone will be forgotten, nothing we do will make any difference, and all good endeavours, even the best, will come to naught. Unless there is God. If the God of the Bible exists, and there is a True Reality beneath and behind this one, and this life is not the only life, then every good endeavour, even the simplest ones, pursued in response to God's calling, can matter forever.”

- **Timothy Keller, Every Good Endeavor: Connecting Your Work to God's Work**

“Why are there wars in the world? Why is there this constant international tension? What is the matter with the world? Why war and all the unhappiness and turmoil and discord amongst men? According to this Beatitude, there is only one answer to these questions-sin. Nothing else; just sin.”

- **David Martyn Lloyd-Jones, Studies in the Sermon on the Mount**

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