

Tonight we begin the series "What in the Word?" **You've said it, I've said it, we've all said it.**

We've seen something that we didn't 100% understand and we said it....**WHAT IN THE WORLD?**

Sometimes it's something crazy, unbelievable, unfathomable or maybe we just don't get it. **(PICTURES)**

Sometimes we get to this point when we think about this world...like us being in it. (Or am I the only one?)

Your belief in WHY you are here on this earth and your belief in who it is that put you here greatly affects how you live here

Three huge questions we'll look at over the next few weeks. WHY Am I here? – WHO Put me here – HOW Am I to live?

Three questions that often lead to frustration and leave us asking.....WHAT IN THE WORLD!?

So let's start with the first big question: WHY AM I HERE?

As we answer this question we stop doubting existence and feeling as if we have no worth...

we stop walking around confused and just floundering (wasting time and our life)

and we start walking in confidence knowing and believing our Purpose.

We also better understand WHO put us here.

You can't get the answer to WHY WE'RE HERE without understanding WHO PUT US HERE.

And When we understand the WHY & WHO, we better understand the **HOW I AM TO LIVE** question.

KNOWING THESE THINGS FREES US UP TO ACTUALLY LIVE as we were intended to live – **EPH. 2:10 (Workmanship)** WHAT?

That means we are made by God...So God Is the WHO....and we know anything that is made has a purpose, a reason.

Eph. 2:10 says this. **GOD PUT US HERE FOR A PURPOSE, for a reason....SO WHAT IS IT?**

To understand the ultimate purpose, the big picture, we go back to the beginning of the story...

Look at **Genesis 1:27** real quick. THIS IS THE CREATION STORY, The BEGINNING **(READ GEN. 1:27)**

This verse points us to the reality that our main purpose in life is to bear the image of God in this world.

WHAT IN THE WORLD does that mean? Simply Put, we are created to bear the image of God?

- We are made in the likeness of God to show His presence on the earth** – we bear his likeness, we feel, talk, relate, we create, we love, forgive. No other created being has the ability to do what we can do. WHY? We are made in the image of God. But not just to BE in his image....there's another reason.
- We are made in the likeness of God and are meant to reflect that likeness** – how we live, talk, act, and be. MIRROR

So get this....don't miss it....**we are here for God.** Simply put. **So HOW AM I TO LIVE WHILE ON THIS EARTH?**

You are here, I am here, we are here **FOR GOD.** **We are to live for His glory, above all other reasons...**

TO KNOW HIM and **TO MAKE HIM KNOWN** – This is our greatest purpose in this life.

The God who created all things also created me for his pleasure, for his glory and for his purpose.

Ultimately this life is found in Christ – **COL. 1:15-17**

So the confidence in life comes knowing that **God is the one** in full control and **He is the one** that has given this purpose and He has given the keys to Christ and **He is the one** that is holding all things together

WE KNOW and **MUST TRUST** THAT THIS **GOD IS WORKING** ALL THINGS FOR MY GOOD AND HE IS ALSO WORKING ALL THINGS FOR HIS GLORY **(Romans 8:28)** BUT ALSO....**PHIL. 1:6** (I AM SURE OF THIS)) **WHAT IN THE WORLD?**

Track with me: We exist for a huge purpose and it goes beyond anything you or this world can produce.

We exist for God's glory – everything we do has to do with us reflecting Him in this world.

And this God, who has ultimate Authority is not a mean God but a God of love, grace and mercy.

Rather than leaving us when we went our own way...HE PURSUED and PURSUES US IN and THROUGH CHRIST.

and now we stand able to fulfill our purpose and He sends us out to reflect His nature in this world

AND...I AM SURE OF THIS....GOD, who began this work...will bring it to completion.

KNOW THIS - TRUST THIS – LIVE IN THIS – don't ever struggle with the question of why you're here or who put you here?

This life begins with Jesus....our devotion today...ONLY JESUS can bring this life.

Life With Jesus brings purpose, hope, confidence, identity. Life without Him brings the opposite and often times these people are constantly the question....**WHAT IN THE WORLD?**

SO let's deal with this question. (GROUPS OR INSTAGRAM)

Q1 - How much do you struggle with purpose or identity?

Q2 - How does Colossians 1:16 and Genesis 1:27 and Phil. 1:6 help us with our purpose and identity and encouragement as we live in this world?