WHY AM I HERE?
(Matthew 22:36-40)

I. Our great purpose.
   A. In our text for this sermon, Jesus was asked a question: “What is the greatest command of all?”
   B. One would think that He would have gone to one of the ten commandments.
      1. After all, these dominated the life of the Jews.
      2. These ten commands were hub of the life of Jews.
   C. Instead, Jesus went to Deuteronomy 6:5 and then added Leviticus 19:18 to His answer.
   D. Jesus, present when the Holy Spirit inspired Moses to write those two passages cut through the red tape of the ten commandments and exposed to man the purpose for life: to lovingly obey God.
   E. This is why you and I are here on this planet, in possession of an eternal, immortal soul.
   F. We are here for no other purpose.
   G. We show our love for God by our obedience (John 14:15).
   H. Long ago, Moses gave this same answer to the Jews of His day (Deuteronomy 10:12-13).
   I. He would state it one more time to them just a short time before he died (Deuteronomy 30:15-16).
   J. Listen to what Samuel told Saul, when Saul had failed to obey God’s commands (1 Samuel 15:22).
   K. There are two actions that combine together to make the achievement of this great purpose for life possible and it is to them that we now look.

II. Fear God.
   A. The word “fear” means to reverence, venerate, to treat with deference or reverential obedience.
      1. When one thinks of who God is, what He has done and is capable of doing, fearing Him is not a problem.
      2. Great reverence should be given to Him for His creative and sustaining powers (Genesis 1:1; Acts 17:28).
      3. Great reverence is due Him due to His creation and fulfillment of a plan to save mankind (John 3:16).
      4. We are nothing in comparison to God, thus He is worthy of deference and reverence.
   B. The idea of fearing God is one that has always been taught to God’s people.
      2. Ecclesiastes 12:13 tells us that the whole of man is made up of fearing God and keeping His commandments.
   C. In the New Testament, we are taught to fear God as well.
      1. 1 Peter 2:17.
      2. Here, Peter is giving a quick list of duties that need to be fulfilled in the life of a Christian, and one is “fear God.”
D. The way we show our fear, or reverence for God, is by being obedient to Him.
   1. “Fear God and keep His commandments.”
   2. The definition of the word “fear” ended with “reverential obedience.”

E. You show reverence for parents by being obedient to their wishes and rules of the house.

F. The same holds true for God.

III. Glorify God.

A. The second aspect of fulfilling our purpose in life is glorifying God with how we live our lives.

B. When you and I and everyone else bring glory to God, we are fulfilling the purpose for which we have been placed on this earth.

C. To glorify God means “to praise, extol, magnify, celebrate; do honor to, to cause the dignity and worth of some person or thing to become manifest and acknowledged.”
   1. You and I are commanded to do so.

D. As a matter of fact, all that we do is to bring glory to God (1 Corinthians 10:31).

E. What we do should not be meant to glorify us in any way (Matthew 5:16).

F. Just as with fearing God, our obedience to the commands of God is what brings glory to Him.
   1. Good works bring glory to God.
   2. Good works are those things that God has asked us to do and that we have been created to do (Ephesians 2:10).
      a. Notice that it is the one created in Christ Jesus.
      b. One is in Christ when He/she has obeyed the gospel plan of salvation and been baptized into Christ (Galatians 3:26-27).
   3. It was for this reason that Jesus gave Himself for us (Titus 2:14).
   4. Good works are those that bring glory and honor to God.
   5. That which is considered good is that which God has commanded.

G. We bring glory to God when we lovingly obey His commands.

IV. Why we should strive to achieve our purpose in life.

A. Some might have a problem with being obedient.

B. We tend to rebel at such a thought in our society.

C. As mentioned, loving God is shown by our obedience.
   1. We should be obedient because we love God.
   2. We love God because He loves us (1 John 4:19).
      a. Notice He loved us first.
      b. He loved us while still in sin (Romans 5:8).

D. The fact of the matter is God calls us to obedience for our own good, not our harm.
   2. Proverbs 14:12.

E. God gives us commands to be obeyed because they are good for us.

F. God’s laws are not a burden to us (1 John 5:3).

G. In fact they will make us happy if we comply with them (John 13:17; James 1:25).

H. Great blessings belong to those that obey God.
   1. Psalm 34:7; 103:11.

Some material in this sermon came from a chapter in Dave Miller’s book, Piloting The Strait.