

soundtrack

the soundtrack of life

introduction

Part One - We are part of the story of God. It's not about you. It's not about me.

Part Two - Every great story has a soundtrack.

Part Three - The soundtrack is heard best in the darkest places.

glorify God

We asking the question today, ***"Why am I here?"***

Everybody asks this question at some point in their life.

"What's the point?"

Is the point one more load of clothes in the washer, one more day at work, one more paycheck?

"What is God's will for my life?"

The answer is simple: The purpose of our lives is to glorify God in everything we do. That's why you exist on planet earth.

"What's my purpose?" - glorify God

"Why am I here?" - glorify God

"Why should I get up every morning?" - glorify God

"Why should I pass this test? Why should I do my homework?" - glorify God

Sounds like a church answer doesn't it. It doesn't help you at all. You need something concrete.

How does that help you at a job interview? What are you supposed to say, *"I'm just here to glorify God."*

The purpose of your life is really that simple: glorify God in everything you do.

Whether you're here in Columbus, or you move to another city - glorify God.

Whether you work at McDonald's, or dressed in a suit in an office - glorify God.

Taking the dog for a walk - glorify God

Washing the dishes - glorify God

This is the same thing Paul said in **[Colossians 3.17]**:

"In whatever you do whether in word or deed do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Giving thanks to God the Father through him."

What does that mean? Does that mean you show up at work and say, "Good morning, in Jesus name. It's good to see you Bob, in Jesus name."

It means to do it all in such a way that it shines a spotlight on the star of the story. Your life shines a light on God.

Worship is the soundtrack to the story of God. But worship is not just a song. Worship is life. Our entire life lived in such a way that it reflects God's character to the world.

You can't just bust out a song in the middle of school or work. We live in environments where we can't do that. What happens to the soundtrack when we can't sing the song?

Nothing.

Because worship is not just songs. Worship is life. It's the way we live. Songs are part of that, but way bigger is the response of our lives.

what is worship

[Romans 12.1,2]

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual (expression) act of worship. And do not be conformed (fashioned) any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed (metamorphoo – change of condition) by the renewing (again new) of you mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will."

What's worship? - That we come to church and sing a song? No.
Our worship is to present ourselves to God - all of us.
We live our lives in a way that shines a light on God.

If we are going to see this, we are going to have to tear down the wall between the sacred and the secular. We have to quit dividing our lives into the spiritual and the natural.

*"This is God and this is the world.
This is church, but this is my job.
This is Sunday morning, but this is Monday morning.
This is the Bible, but these are my real friends."*

We put this wall up between what is we think godly and what is not.

There really isn't any wall there. I think our lives are our lives. I don't think you get any more credit in Heaven if you were a preacher than if you were a bond stockbroker.

"It's the real world. It's business. It's tough. You gotta be quick. You gotta know when to hold 'em and when to fold 'em. God is probably off on some missionary journey somewhere. What does he know about stock trading?"

"I come to church and sing some songs and help serve, but then I go over to my work world, where I'm a bond trader in a whole different setting, with a whole different vocabulary, a whole different set of values and principles."

"Then I'm back in my church world with my small group and we're all talking about the Bible. Isn't that great?"

"The next morning, I'm still a bond trader. I'm in the boardroom making a call to Hong Kong, New York, Singapore."

God doesn't care if we are a stockbroker or a preacher. It makes no difference to him.

"Whatever we do, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus."

There are going to be a whole lot of people who are preaching that aren't doing very much of it in the name of Jesus and when they get done, they're not going to have a lot to show for it. *"It's all about me. Look at me."*

God is looking for a stockbroker who can trade stocks in such a way that it reflects the character of God. *"Is that even possible?"*

whatever you do

There's no extra credit for being a missionary or being a mother. There's no special reward for being an evangelist over being a salon owner. The value in the kingdom of God is, did you wake up to a bigger story and do everything in the name of Jesus? Did everything you do shine a spotlight on God?

How do you do that? Do you have to put a scripture verse at the bottom of everything you sign?

You do it when you do whatever you do with excellence. There is no reason that you shouldn't be the very best at whatever you do.

"Yeah, but I just staple papers together and put them in a box. I'm not a stockbroker. I wish I were a stockbroker. I'm just a paper stapler."

"I just hand Chick-fila sandwiches to people throw the drive through."

Guess what? You're in the story. So whatever you do, do with excellence.

Maybe you lay awake at night thinking about how you want to own a hair salon. It gets you jazzed. Everybody else is going on the mission trip or going to college to do something noble. You just want to own a hair salon... right in the middle of the story of God.

You're thinking about highlights and nail color and lighting and the music you want to play and the smell and the massage tables... And you feel like it's wrong because everyone is talking about their trip to China, or their small group or what they're involved in at church.

And you didn't know where to take that your whole life because that's the thing you live for. That's the thing that makes you come alive.

You probably got sold an idea along the way that told you that kind of dream was second rate in the kingdom of God. It's not near as good as being a worship leader or bible study teacher.

Do you want to own a hair salon? Make it the very best hair salon in this town. You don't have to have a fish sticker on your window. It's doesn't have to be named "His Clips."

If we were going to go to a salon, I want to go to the coolest, hippest salon in town. Be the person who owns the best salon in town. Don't dumb it down because it's Christian. You're doing it for the glory of God. So go to training in Milan and New York. Find out what the best of the best are doing and learn it.

In the end, people are going to come in and ask you how you built such a great salon, or how did you get such great staff, or how do you give the best highlights? And you'll have a chance to answer and shine the light on God.

And they'll hear you because they respect you because you're great at what you do.

What will get you noticed:

Dependability – Do you want to not get fired? Then be the most dependable person at your job. That will guarantee your spot.

Harvest Buffet stories – health inspectors, throwing cups, tossing shoes into the street; stay a minimum of two years

Trustworthiness - It doesn't matter what you do. Be completely and 100% trustworthy. When the boss is there and when he's gone.

Caring - Look around and care about the other people you work with.

Positive - have a positive attitude. That's the number one thing that sets people apart.

How do you give glory to God when you're stapling papers? Because you're in the story. And you're happy to be in the story. People will wonder what's going on with you just when you're happy.

Why should you get good grades? Because you are right in the middle of the story of God.

Guitar Illustration - playing a song off key – it doesn't sound good. In fact you want it to be over. There are 6 strings on a guitar and hundreds of notes. All it takes is one or two of those notes to be off to ruin the whole song.

All it takes is a couple of us who don't get it. One or two out of key. The story of "me." Get as much money and get ahead as quick as possible.

Worship is not just singing the song. Worship is life: A life that is in tune with the soundtrack of God.

How does that happen? A couple of ways:

1. We recognize that we are part of a bigger story.
2. We allow God to shape us and change us and transform us.

You can't compartmentalize worship and put it away somewhere on Monday morning.

Ro 12.2 - (read as you tune the guitar string)

Don't let the world tweak you. Don't let the world tell you how to sound. Be transformed by God. Allow him to put his tuning fork on you and tweak you.

Then (when you're in tune) you'll know God's will.

Church is not about what you do.... or what you don't do. Christianity is not about what you do, but whatever you do for a higher purpose - and that will cut out some of the things you do. You don't quit doing things because you go to church. You quit doing things because you're part of a bigger story.

The soundtrack is what you live.