

“Discovering Your Life-Defining Purpose”
1 Peter 1:13-16
Message #5 May 24, 1992

- Intro
1. Around what have you built your identity? --- Whatever satisfies our longings most deeply will be our lord and master.
 2. For what do you long? Larry Crabb describes 3 categories of longings (Workbook p. 29)
 - #1. Casual longing – shelter, food, comfort, convenience, personal preferences
 - #2 Critical longing—deep human relationship – to be enjoyed, accepted, wanted, and competency – to have visible impact
 - #3 Crucial / Core longing—restored and deepened relationship with the Lord of the Universe – to be accepted i/s/o my sin; valued i/s/o my weakness and impact – to be useful in God’s purposes, living a life that makes an eternal difference
 3. God appeals to people to enter into relationship with Him on the basis of their longings. Relationship and Impact
 4. However, Pv. 19:3 says, “The foolishness of man subverts his way, and his heart rages against the Lord.” By nature (Jer. 2:13) we turn elsewhere to find satisfaction for our crucial longings. Whatever we turn to becomes our god.
 5. Satisfaction found in a false god will inevitably lead to a breakdown in relationships. (James 4:1-30)
 - We become demanding rather than sacrificial
 - We become self-occupied rather than other-centered
 6. The pursuit of satisfaction through this false god become my life-defining purpose, my goal in life.

You are saying, “This is what I must reach/do to deeply enjoy what it means to be alive. I’ll make it with or without your cooperation.”

Trans (Peter encourages us that there is hope for the satisfaction of our deepest longings. Here is what it takes.)

Message

- I. A renewal of my mind through grace in order to put life's complexities in perspective (1:13)
- II. A commitment to surface and shed my wrong strategies (1:14)
- III. A redefinition of my life's purpose – to pursue the Lord and to possess His character (1:15-16)

Conclusion