

## The Purpose of Life (side 1)

Good morning to you. For all the years that I have known Mr. Hal Finch and he now is in the photo files for the Plain Truth and is responsible for acquiring the photographic resources of the magazine, I have never realized that his wife plays piano like that. We have a rather quiet area, I think we should have a change. I really appreciate the implications also of the song in terms of the making us aware of the important events taking place in Eastern Europe and in the thinking, especially in the people who took the brunt of the Second World War. 41 years ago, of course, this month Poland was brought down by the armies of Nazi Germany. Today, of course, things seem so different and the Poles are still seeking to acquire that kind of respectable freedom that has given them the capacity as the people to survive linguistically and nationally despite major powers on either side of her. I would like to give best wishes from any of the brethren who might normally be in Detroit or may have been there for the festival. My wife and I were there for the first part of the festival. It is an in-city environment right along the river linking two of the Great Lakes. Detroit, surgically reflected as a festival site what many of us experienced for years in the region of Big Sandy, Texas, even though the environment was quite different. The hall was very, very similar in the response to nature of the setting.

Of all the music I heard during the festival, apart from what one might have seen on film from Tucson, one doesn't judge that in the same way as when you see the live performers, I was remarkably impressed by the finesse of the group that contributed to the music in Detroit. Everything seemed to be right on time, that is, the voices simply hung together as very few groups do when you combine groups from different church areas. A remarkable presentation. We had the chance also of spending a little more time in an area of South Dakota, Rapid City, east of the Black Hills, one of the more beautiful sites in the nation and certainly the setting there was a reminder of the grounds around here though not so well kept of course it's a municipal setting yet the public building which belongs to the community in which the services were held and the study was in a beautiful setting with stream, a lake, trees and lawns and not to mention of course the lovely area around and the climate.

Most of the people there were farmers. We had a special study and I would say that probably half to two-thirds of all the people the minimum turned out for a study devoted to specific questions that two of us handled with respect to the problem of farming, the Bible, connection with our responsibility in handling that part of God's nature. I had a chance briefly to be in Tucson. I was not scheduled to be back here but since I spoke on Tuesday and found that going from Rapid City to Tucson was going from rest to the artificial noise of the, I guess one would say it's typical of most hotels and motels. You have the constant noise all night of the air conditioner and we simply didn't get any suitable rest and I decided that since our children were here I might as well come back and we enjoyed the last two days in the services while we were in the gymnasium. All the results piped in it was very clear and effective.

So I was asked today since I didn't have a chance to greet any of the brethren formally during the feast here if I would pinch it for Mr. Tkach who was asked to go to Arizona. Before I go on with the subject however I would just like to mention one small matter. One of the members from Long Beach Church handed me an interesting to me clipping from the Los Angeles Times of today on the impact of the visit of the King of Tonga to West Germany. Many of the West Germans have now become interested in going there. Of course there's any great visitor. He said I love the Germans when he

visited West Germany and all the Germans who hurt him took him so seriously that there has been an overwhelming response to either visit the country or to want to settle there.

He said I would like to have more Germans in my kingdom that he didn't realize that there are so many Germans that it would overwhelm his realm. Anyway they're solving the problem in part by telling the Germans that it would be better if they want to get an answer to their interest in correspondence if they'd write in English because English of course is the international language of Tonga. I happen to have in my office a package which is one of the reasons for mentioning it which is a photograph of the King of Tonga and his wife visiting the president and his wife of West Germany. It was taken by our staff members on the plain truth who also the gentleman anyway both of them in a sense worked for the work but the gentleman Mr. Alfred Hennig is also the official West German photographer and he took a beautiful picture as well as others of the series and Mr.

Frank Schnee was responsible for our efforts in Germany had a non-glare glass and a beautiful but simple wooden frame put around the picture and it's left to me to see that we get it to Tonga and Mr. Hong Hanu who's responsible for our group there will use his good judgment as to how he should present it to the King to hold the force and his wife which would be very important for of course our work there for in Tonga we are now on radio that's supported by the ties of the local brethren also the print of Tonga has a radio broadcast and in many cases Mr.

Hong Hanu has reported in others that the prince listened to what we have to say about world news and world events and explains it to his people in Tonga which is a real development I was scheduled to take a trip around the world but I have decided with events in the Middle East and an insufficient amount of time that I might have to do at piecemeal at some time later our office in New Zealand had asked me to give a plain truth lecture which would of course be in translation in Tonga and I will not forget that but at this moment I think it would be better to wait for a proper or longer range moment for such a program anyway the work there is gradually developing outside now for the first time of the one main island whereas in PG nearby the work has been scattered to the islands in Tonga it was rather limited but it's good news wherever the work has grown and I hope to hear how things went there I've recently had a letter from Mr. Hong Hanu and wrote him back on behalf of all the brethren here in Pasadena this afternoon in our near and hour left I would like to discuss an overview after we have heard the festival of tabernacles the sermon an overview of the purpose of life as taught in the churches of God there are many organizations that propose to explain the purpose of life but none have come to grip with the purpose of life as it was ordained by God and our role in it today which transcends every other issue for there is no reason to discuss the smaller things of life if we have not really discussed and this I should say discovered the purpose in human life if we're going to understand the purpose in life that is why you are here we have to focus ultimately on one thing which is fundamental we sometimes have gotten away from it in emphasizing it and it is the simple word character well when all is said and done the ultimate issue of what we have achieved in this life will not be measured in money the property and inheritance or institution but it will be measured in character which brings up the question of course why is character this important that it should be the ultimate way of summarizing the purpose of human life we have to go back of course to the beginning to discover that the perfect the perfect character is God Jesus said at the end of his exposition in the account in Matthew chapter five that we should be perfect as our father in heaven is perfect we start out by a recognition of something which the human mind it cannot fathom it may discuss but we really have to face the fact that we take it on faith and faith of course is an aspect of character and that is the beings who gave birth to the universe by a creative series of acts are perfect God is existed before all that in the universe is he is also perfect he is perfect in character now it would of course been an unfathomable problem if the creator or beings who had power were

not perfect we have to face the fundamental evidence of scripture from beginning to end and that is before there was a universe there was a level of being that we define as God or the creative level of being above matter perfect in mind power and character they said about according to first john one in the beginning you have the word logos verbal men laughing which is the more active sense of the word authority is what is conveyed spoken authority by the greek word logos or the english word word and the one whom we know as God who is the father here we have the level of being that is God and who we discover when we look in genesis one one that they created the universe as Mrs. Armstrong has pointed out the beginning referred to in john one one is even preceding the beginning which is in genesis one one one is the beginning of the natural universe the other is the beginning in which God already is you see in genesis one one we have a creator acting in the beginning of matter in john one one we have the existence of divinity or deity already there if we were to measure in terms of the sense of the word beginning in time a series of events to follow god is already there we learn elsewhere in scripture in particular job 38 verses 4 and 7 as well as some other parallels that there were also spirit beings created as the sons of god but not from birth but from a creative act spirit beings whom we may call spirit or angels some of whom have such rank as archangel or a chief angel and there are other terms in the Hebrew also used usually not translated in English but just left as the original Hebrew is a seraph and a carib that is spirits of immense power and rank we discover then that god thought out and planned everything that we see but before having thought out and planned and then created the universe he first created spirit beings not composed of matter whose function it would be to carry out his purpose in a material world that we visibly see so that when god laid the foundation of the earth job 38 four and seven we read that the angels were already there and shouted for joy as what was to be created angels therefore were created in the interim between the existence of god the father there was we know him as the father today or god and the word because he was not the father until jesus was born of Mary he was actually in the level of a non-family relationship until that particular relationship occurred this god relationship is a kingdom there is the god kingdom then he created the angel realm or kingdom and then in matter we have the kingdoms that we think of in terms of animal life we think of in terms of mechanical life these terms are broadly defining levels of existence the reason god created spirits was first to train them in his presence at his throne in heaven which is not the physical heavens we cannot see heaven at god throne because if we did we would not live god chose not to enable man to see the throne of god unless he has a special purpose in mind which will come to light of course if you read revelation where that throne does appear on one occasion and the family of man is quite frightened at such an experience but at heaven the throne of god where god's government is centered the angels were trained in god's truth god's word is truth they were trained in his character that is to think and to act like he does but they had to make their own mind up as to whether they would continue to do so having had god's way explained and up to that point that god created the physical universe the angels were obedient they were perfect in all of their ways and we learn of course that they were even overjoyed at the time of the creation of the earth itself having been trained at the presence of god's throne hillel the life bringer whom the lapin translators call lucifer was given a responsibility away from the throne of god to carry out god's government on earth this being was one of three great beings two of whom were at the presence of god's throne having been placed now over the earth to continue the government of god over this earth that the creator had now brought into being and to continue to govern it through whatever forms of life there should be on this earth we have a most remarkable series of events spirit beings who had been aware of the goodness of god who had been aware of the magnitude of god's creative power now were faced to face with executing god's will and his law on a planet all their own and if they should prove themselves here their responsibility would have been to extend the government of god over the rest of the universe step by step and it didn't turn out that way because the life bringer this supreme angel or carib conceived

listen he conceived that god's way was only one alternative that there ought to be other possible alternative and over a period of time ultimately one third of the angels came to the same conclusion they had heard that god was good they had seen that he was good but they ultimately came to believe is that their ideas might be better that god couldn't be that good the basic philosophy that was introduced by this life bringer who now was bringing darkness to the minds of angels and came to be known as the devil or satan satan the adversary and we'll refer to him as that he conceived fundamentally the idea of competition that leads to achievement this was his reasoning that instead of cooperation instead of the way of give love which fulfills the law of god there should be the chance to compete and to get ahead by alternative methods so instead of having to tell the truth you might get ahead by telling a lot and the most remarkable thing we find is that when john the apostle of jesus writes he tells us in john eight uh 44 jesus is now being quoted and then it's important that we turn to this particular verse john eight forty four reading from the revised standard version is speaking of those jews who had followed the way of the devil jesus speaking of the devil said in the second sentence of verse 44 he was a murderer from the beginning that is that the spirit of competition as he conceived of it is manifested in the attitude of hate or murder and he ultimately ended up with nothing to do with the truth there is no longer you see any proof in him when he lies he speaks according to his own nature for he is a liar and the father of lies angels including this being where ultimately should determine the nature of the spirit composing them now let us remember that human beings have a nature human nature is molded by our society molded by parents molded by others of our own generation in our school molded by television and in reality also significantly molded by ideas that enter into the human mind that the devil put there in the forms of moods and attitudes without human beings realizing it as human nature varies from person to person and some human beings are developing natures that even go contrary to our own societies so spirits ultimately have the responsibility of determining their own nature whether the nature of spirit would be in conformity to the character of god or in conformity to something in opposition now you will note that long before the 10 commandments were given at sinai this being is called a murderer he was a murderer from the beginning these ideas came to mind after the spirits were given responsibility to execute god's government over the earth he was a liar one of the 10 commandments says you shall not murder another says you shall not lie or bear false witness so we discover that the commandments define already just from the general picture we have here the character of god and the violation of the commandments define the nature that some of the angels ultimately introduced into themselves spirit was subject to being molded either into the character of god or some other direction and this being conceived of the idea of competition that you get ahead this this way you separate the less able from the more able and while you are getting ahead you make more progress if you can lie and deceive somebody into believing something else so that you can replace him and get ahead of the other person or angels and so we find that the devil is a deceiver he is a liar he is a murderer the truth doesn't exist in him we turn also to john's account in a letter he wrote verse john's chapter three verse eight he who commits sin speaking of men is of the devil sin is a transgression of law for the devil has sinned from the beginning now we learn in john's own letter here a little earlier that whoever disobeys the commandments and still says i know him is a liar and the truth is not in him the devil may claim to know god he's been in god's presence but he didn't believe god was that good he therefore really didn't know god for what he is even though he could have and in faith should have continued to believe that god is good as god told him he is before the earth was created he who says i know him but disobeys his commandments is a liar and the truth is not in him this is a description of the devil the devil really doesn't believe that god is that good he lies about god he has lied to himself in disobeying the commandment he had become a liar and we know that he was a liar and a murderer from the beginning this is all called sin sin is a transgression of the law first john three four same books everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness sin is

lawlessness king james version says sin is a transgression of law now here we are dealing with the nature satan speaks of his own nature said john in the rsv translation a very good translation of that verse john 8:44 here we discover that the commandments therefore reflect the nature of god the violation of the commandments the nature of the devil and the issue is not only a matter of government broadly speaking over the universe it is also individually a matter of character and we must not forget that because each one of us is also going to be found responsible here we discover the picture that angels in administering the government of god conceived if they followed the reasoning of the devil that there were other an alternative way or as one might word it when they heard what god revealed to them could be their destiny some of them conceived that they were taking god's way for granted that they had never seen an alternative and why should not they conceive of an even more effective alternative sin in a sense is trying to find an alternative to god's character it rises first from disrespect to the government of god the denial of god's goodness and a decision that implies that the natural mind whether the natural mind of angels or the natural mind of men is capable of devising alternatives to the governance of the universe equal to or superior to anything that god has fought out in so doing one violates the very first commandment that you shall not have any god before Yahweh who is the ever living god Yahweh is the Hebrew word which means ever living or the eternal one translated lord usually in the most English rendering that anyone who conceives of an alternative as better put himself in the position where he now is serving himself as god instead of the creator there came a time having gone this wrong way for a great period of time not defined in scripture that a final action took place in which the angels and hillels now become patent abandon the estate that they had been given jude which follows john james peter john and jude jude tells us that the angels which kept not their first estate were punished having at a moment of time conceived of the idea that if they could delude god into thinking they had other ideas in mind that suddenly they could form to heaven itself and displace god from his throne and would be able therefore to redefine the way the universe should be run to determine the results of how spirits should live in this assent assault and war on heaven there was an immediate reaction Jesus said that in the battle he beheld satan fall from heaven as lightning and he was booted back or whatever other means we might like to use to define it to earth and fell with such speed it was comparable to the movement of lightning the speed of light in the heaven and he was cast back to the earth and the angels had followed him it was at this point that we pick up the story of genesis as you know the issue now is what god proposes to do with human beings this has been defined of course in a much more extensive form in sermons and in the song book the incredible human potential which is also now available as you probably know in Dutch French and German this great change that takes place where the focus is now no longer on what the angels shall do but on whether or not human beings could qualify to execute god's government on the earth the angels that followed satan having abandoned their estate could now have been replaced in the account given in genesis one the rest of chapter one beside verses one and two and then in chapter two and in chapter three there is the story you have heard it repeated a number of occasions and could man follow god in such a way that human beings would continue to execute the government of god that is to keep the commandment to do what god says is right to come to have that kind of confidence in him that by doing only that which is right no other alternatives make sense that it makes sense to tell the truth it makes sense to love your neighbor as yourself it does not make sense to lie or to steal or to hate that you see the benefit of living god's way so much that you wouldn't either do or plan or anticipate an alternative in this case it did not work out that way god who foresees everything put adam the first human being to the test and of course the one whom we know as the devil or that serpent Lucifer who had become a satan or an adversary deceived the woman into thinking that there were other ways of acquiring all the things that god knew rather instead of finding those things from god's mouth his way to pursue it some other way there was a tree that was symbolic of the devil's way god said that

tree he reserved for himself he did not allow the human family to eat the fruit of that tree in the garden in which they then dwell the devil put it into the mind of ease that she could take of it anyway that in fact what god had said he would reveal to her because god reveals truth and he reveals its opposite so you can know the bible contained the full story but we should learn the difference between truth and error by doing what is right not by doing the alternative to the commandment which is sin the devil conceived of the idea that if the first human being could be led to create their own ideas to put themselves up as gods where they relied on themselves instead of god's word why then of course he would not be replaced and he and the angels would get back the rules in part of the estate which they abandoned and that is in fact what happened so that today men do not believe there is a world government in fact there has been for nearly six thousand years a world government continuing on earth but not visible to man composed of spirits who had rebelled against the law of god this government has influenced the human family ever since the events in the garden of Eden the human family went its own direction god cut the family of man of adam off from him on occasion he chose to reveal himself to individuals but otherwise god's plan called for the world to continue doing what adam and eve decided that they would do to invent alternative explanation of god's way alternative to god's goodness where human beings would define evil as good and good is evil and light is dark and darkness is white that is since god defines what is good god defines what is right god defines what is life human beings took upon themselves the idea of calling the opposite by these words and so societies were born nations developed and we will not address the question for the moment of the flood or any of the other events but merely say that for more than two thousand years of human experience human beings have simply gone their own way god revealing himself on occasion just to singular individuals abel and enox and noah and it was not till we come to a man named abram who lived in mesopotamia that god chose to reveal himself to a man from whom he would raise up a nation among all the nations of the world this man abram was tested we know him also as abraham after he proved himself having proved himself we discover the uniqueness of what god expected of abraham in contrast to the way everybody else had been living in contrast to the way he had been living if you will note carefully what it says abraham was 99 years old the translation says when the lord appeared to him and said i am god almighty this is the one appearing to him whom we know as jesus the christ the father had not appeared the one we know as the father had not appeared it was the one who became jesus who talked to the patriarch and came in the flesh and talked to his generation he says walk before me and b and the king james is more effective here perfect blameless as the rsv translation i prefer the sense of perfect because that reflects the ultimate word that we know in english to define the character of god here the first duty of abraham is to walk before god to walk with him in his presence and to do so that he should be called perfect to be perfect is to be like god is adam could have been he simply followed his wife though he knew better and she was deceived the human family has been allowed to write its own record its own ideas to have its own religion its own political structure just as the angels thought they could invent the third that rebelled alternatives god has allowed the human family to remain in spiritual darkness has not dealt with the family but chose rather up to this point just to deal with certain individuals and now he asked one man in particular to be perfect jesus asked the disciples to be perfect this has to do with character we learn of course of the nature as how abraham is to be seen uh in developing that perfection or character when we read of the lord's or yave's statement to isaac that isaac was to conduct himself in the same way that abraham did and abraham kept god's commandment his facture and his law god revealed the way that we should go to abraham we are not told those laws however till later but he did reveal them to abraham and that defines the character of god defines what it means to be perfect we moved down four centuries in time we come now to the events when abraham's descendants were in Egypt their god chooses the descendants leads them out of Egypt by moises and miracles that the red sea brings them to the foot

of a mountain in the Sinai peninsula proposes to them a covenant a relationship that would be based on the following general premise that as mortal human beings as we all are they could be if they wish was voluntary a particular nation that god would choose and he would provide them a land in which to live he would protect them from their enemies and he would constitute them not only a nation in a masculine sense where we tend to think of nations in a masculine sense they should also be a church that is the religious the recipients of the religious proof that no other nation was in possession of they could be a nation in this world they were not promised eternal life they were promised