Finding the Meaning in Life

Phil. 4:10-20

Intro. A. Of all words in Bible translated "sin", most frequent and meaningful is word meaning "to miss the mark".

1. Implies my life like an arrow from God's quiver, aimed for a purpose, a fulfillment, and I find my life in that purpose.
2. But I miss the target.

Not used picture of sin. Homer, hetaerae, prostitute, smuggler, slumberer, unfaithful, absent debtor.

B. Nothing so necessary for a good life as this basic belief as to aim; nothing so destructive, conducive to misery as sense of having missed the point of what life is.

Not easy going to laughing, having solve this misery, from not a sense of life slipping away from you. Death then seems an answer to all misery, but of knowing I have missed the point.

C. Our text is an expression by a man who saw his life as a mission, sent of God.

1. Responding to a gift.
2. Thanks, but not necessary. Equal to all occasions in Christ who is the strength of my life.
3. There is no circumstance that materially affects my life. Take it or leave it; nothing essential but Christ.

D. We have the advantage of 20 centuries of progress yet mark the difference.

I The Spirit of Our Time - Aimless Disappointment.

A. Dell. - Play closed on Broadway pictured it - waiting for Godot.

B. Novels and movies - no meaning in life. Debunk New England society, small town hypocrisy, traditional morals, degeneracy of country club set.

C. All old symbols of achievement, fulfillment shattered - gray flannel, austerity, suburbia, college life.

D. So some have withdrawn, Critics of life, rail against the world. Beatniks.

Trained for industry
place in industry
only to learn more
emphasis that only
certain, dumb with
friends, what lives.

E. and much to criticize: air conditioned dog never used; free children but parents compelled by society; more leisure yet bored; in church yet can't handle small crisis; preoccupied by standard of living.

II Causes of this Missing the point of Life.

A. Some answers partially true.

1. Economists - Not adjusted to economy of abundance. Equate with life. Love things use people.
2. Sociologists - No meaning or satisfaction in work. Man fits machine. More leisure yet no proper use of it.
3. Psychologists - Dissipated emotions. Too many spectaculars, Heartstrings limp. Requires stimulation, Gamble in everything.

B. But on a deeper level -

1. We are in tragic situation of having the things we sought.
2. Knock self out to get ahead. and do. what a let down!
3. Magnificence of life's promise lost in the accomplishment.
4. Working man has house, car, trappings of his employer.
5. Children chase butterfly only to find it but painted dust crushed in hand.

Milton's Hell: Trees & garden whose fruit when tasted, is but ashes.

C. Life's meaning, the point, is in being, not doing, having, appearing.

III The Immediate Need.

A. Repentance.

1. No remorse such as moved Judas or fills monastery, as crates spilled on ground.
2. Man's greatness, I dwell with humble contrite.
3. Repent of world's chase. (Read Chinese story again. Moving)
4. Cinnamon, sweet when bruised.

B. Find your life in God.

1. Scripture, prayer, worship, reflection, self-examination, inventory.
2. Lord, how live? "Give me wisdom & courage"

C. All - Watch flowers fall. Pensive, melancholy. Is this life? Then come quiet. So let it be.