

The Purpose-Driven Life, by Rick Warren is a book I highly recommend. He has amazing truths in it, and I am so excited to see that it has been a best seller for a long time. Truly, God is using it to bring people back to focusing on Him.

But just like a wonderful chicken dinner has bones that must be discarded, so does any human work. I am sad to say that after reading this book, it seems to me that Pastor Warren has been influenced by some very immature people who said they were faith people, and so has concluded that the faith message is wrong.

That is the purpose of my writing this brochure. I have been a partner with Kenneth Copeland Ministries for over a decade at this writing, and I am extremely happy to see that God is working to correct Pastor Warren. Let me quote from this book, Page 76 ~ “Will you make pleasing God the goal of your life? There is nothing that God won’t do for the person totally absorbed with this goal.” This is a strong truth verified many, many times in the Scriptures, and this is the heart of the faith message. So he’s on the right track.

PLACES HE’S MISTAKEN

Page 23 ~ “He (God) planned the days of your life in advance, choosing the exact time of your birth and death.” No, God knows by foreknowledge when you will die, but He doesn’t decide when that will

be. God’s will is for each of us to live a long life. (Psa. 91:16, Prov. 3:2, 16, 4:10, 9:11, and lots more! Gen 6:3, 120 years!) When we die is up to us. There is an excellent mini book by Fred Price, called *The Truth About Death*. He gives many Scripture verses to prove this point. Phil. 1:22 and Heb. 11:35 are two, plus the ones above.

Page 50 ~ “The abundant life has nothing to do with material abundance.” I like that Pastor Rick wants to get our minds off of wealth and possessions and onto God. But God does want us to have lots of good things. What the book says on pages 50-51 is good, but incomplete. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David, Solomon, Job and Hezekiah were each very rich! The others who weren’t apparently did not want to be rich. It’s up to you. Here are some verses for optional study: Matt. 6:33, Rom. 8:32, I Tim. 6:17, III John 2, II Chron. 16:9, Psa. 23:1, 34:8-10, 35:27, 37:4, 84:11, 112:1-3, 145:19, Prov. 10:24.

Near the bottom of page 54, he says that we are to praise God just because He deserves it. This is true. However, you need to know that when we worship God with all our hearts, we are in a position for God to bless us ~ to help with a problem, reduce a pain, heal.... The same message is on pages 64 and 66 also.

Page 56 ~ “Spiritual maturity is becoming like Jesus in the way we think, feel and act.” This is true, but again,

incomplete. John 14:12 says that we should be doing the same works that Jesus did! As we grow in our relationship with God, He will teach us how to heal the sick and even raise the dead.

Page 81 ~ near the bottom, please cross out the words “*pain, sickness.*” Acts 10:38 and Luke 16:13 make it clear that sickness is a work of the devil. In III John 2, God wants us to be in health. That’s why Jesus healed all who would let Him. Gal. 3:13, “Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law.” Deut. 28:61 says that all sickness and disease is included in the curse of the law. So Jesus’ death paid for us to be well, Isa. 53:4-5, Matt. 8:16-17. It doesn’t make sense to turn around and put sickness on us after paying so much to get us well.

Page 98 is more of this same subject. Pain or problems are part of the curse, Rom. 2:4, “The goodness of God leads to repentance.” The Bible does not say you will never have any trouble. But it says that faith is the victory that overcomes, I John 5:4. We are to live by faith, Rom. 1:17. We have an enemy and we are to use our authority against him and win!

Page 110, Job’s admirable declaration is good, but wrong in the last line ~ “The Lord has taken away.” God didn’t do it, Satan did. Job didn’t know. Job 42:1-3.

Page 162, the last three lines, cross

out the word *sinner*s twice, and insert the word *humans*. What he's saying is good, but when we were born again, we became new creatures. Sin doesn't dominate us any more. II Cor. 5:17.

Page 173 ~ What he is saying about the self-absorbed life is absolutely right. But God has already paid for us to be wealthy. II Cor. 8:9, Gal. 3:13, 29, and Deut. 28:1-14. And a study of the O.T. word *peace* will open your eyes to more! I have written a brochure called *Who Qualifies for Prosperity?* Briefly, let me list the qualifications for you. Seek God (not wealth) with all your heart ~ close to desperation; much time in the Word and private prayer, praise, meditation in the Word, confessions of faith; and any disobedience or step out of love will nullify your faith and set you back. No, it is not easy!

He says we expect the Christian life to be like heaven on the earth. Here are two verses which show that it **can be**. Matt. 6:10 and Deut. 10:12-13.

Page 193 ~ at the very bottom, write in the word, *Persecution*. Also, page 198, about two inches from the bottom in the Bible verse, underline the suffering words and write in *persecution, not sickness*.

Page 196, "Of those who love God and are called. This promise is only for Christians." That is only partly right. It is for those who obey Him, John 14:15, 21,

23. God is not working everything for good to those who are lukewarm Christians, just going through the motions and who are not seeking God with all their hearts. This will also clarify what's on page 195.

Page 196 bottom, underline the three *hammers*, and then write *people* below it. On page 197, he lists several things that God may bring into your life to mold you. Please write in the margin, *not sickness or disaster*.

Page 274, 2/3 down, "referring to his own weakness, which God refused to take away." Cross out this phrase. *Thorn* in Scripture is people, like a pain in the neck. Num. 33:55, Josh. 23:13, Jud. 2:3, and more. God wants to exalt us, James 4:6, 10, I Pet. 5:6, Matt. 23:12 and more. "My grace is sufficient" is power. I Cor. 15:10, and it's our choice, Heb. 11:35. Paul was delivered, II Tim. 3:11. I have written a brochure called, *If Healing is always God's will, then what about Job, and Paul's thorn?* It will help you more.

An excellent companion book would be Gloria Copeland's *Blessed Beyond Measure*. She shows us lots of Bible verses proving how much God wants to prosper and bless us. God wants the world to see how good our God is to us, and then they will desire to be in on it!

Purpose Driven Life

Is this book right
~ or wrong?

A mini Bible study
By Cheryl Boone