

purpose

Proverbs 28:26

He who trusts in himself is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom is kept safe.

My purpose **transcends** “trusting in myself.”

INFANT > trusts anyone except themselves

ADULT > trusts no one BUT themselves
(including God)

Spiritually, this is a slide **backward**
(cf. Mt. 18:3, Mk. 10:14-15)

Trusting “only self” is not a **safe** or **smart** way
to pursue life.

* Much lies beyond my own ability to know.

Proverbs 22:29

Do you see a man skilled in his work?
He will serve before kings. He will not
serve before obscure men.

My purpose is not simply to “find a job,”
but to put **passion** and **skill** into whatever
work is before me.

This is not a criticism of “obscure men,” but a call to **dedicated**, **diligent** workmanship.

Our “work” is not simply a **product**. It is a **statement** about ourselves and our motivation.

Proverbs 21:21

He who pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity, and honor.

I achieve my purpose only when I
recognize and **prioritize** life's most
crucial elements.

Many things seem “urgent,” yet produce nothing of **permanent** or **eternal** value.

SATISFACTION comes from character ("righteousness") and relationships ("love") rather than selfish pursuits.

Seek first the Kingdom of God and his
righteousness and all **THESE OTHER THINGS**
will be given to you as well. (*Mt 6:33*)

Proverbs 15:24

The path of life leads upward for the wise to keep him from going down into the grave (Sheol).

Life is a JOURNEY going upward or downward. We are not simply **being** but **going**. My purpose is to make certain I am going the right **direction** to the right **destination**.

This verse implies a tragic “default” destination. Without a CHANGE of direction, nothing will “keep him” from heading downward.

Proverbs 11:30

The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life,
and he who wins souls is wise.

A non-fruiting tree has missed its most crucial purpose.

The **end result** (fruit) of our lives should be [spiritual] life made accessible to others.

This involves **effort** (“win”) and **focus** (“souls”).

The purpose of your earthly life cannot be simply “going to heaven.” That doesn’t even happen during your earthly life. Why are you here? To PREPARE for heaven, i.e., experience and practice heaven’s kind of life (righteousness > fruit).