

Maybe the year was 2005

Maybe the location was Someplace + Broadway N.Y., N.Y.

the billboard on the theatre read "the purpose-driven life" Rick Warren
 there is excitement in the evangelical community. Expectations are high. After all, the opening lines will set the standard for the rest of the book. It will be a statement of wisdom, eloquence perfectly describing how to lead a Christian life with all of its blessings.

the buzz of excitement followed the crowd as they took their seats. This is going to be good, this is what we have waited for. The words to come will be well spoken and wise.

the curtain opens to reveal an actor chosen to open the performance. He hasn't memorized his, ¹¹⁹⁰⁵ deeming it necessary to have written script. Nervously, he unfolds ~~his~~ the paper with the words for opening, looks at the words and then rolls it over to check the backside for more words. - Nothing. He then proceeded to utter these five words. "It is not about You". The crowd, if not stunned was disappointed. The actor, fearing he had not been heard, repeated the line, ¹¹⁹⁰⁵ only louder this time. "It is not about You"

the director, feeling the need for a break - closed the curtain at which time a child's voice from the crowd was heard to ask, "If its not about me, who is it about"?

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens & earth. In the beginning God - four words, possibly the four most important words in the history of the Universe. They set the standard for the rest of scripture.

When we unpack the words
In the beginning? God was there before creation.

God = Hebrew dictionary describes God as plural. With a name like "trinity Lutheran" - we serve a trione God. There is no room for discussion or debate about that truth,

Authenticity of scripture - no discussion - no debate

Person of Jesus - no discussion - no debate

Grace of the cross - no discussion - no debate.

II

Looking at and living in God's creation, there are no excuses for not believing in a higher power. The evidence is overwhelming.

Our galaxy = 200 billion stars

every patch of sky the ~~same~~ size of our moon covers 1 million galaxies.

Scientists are just now saying gravity has to be perfect for all of this to work. Not just gravity on earth, but throughout the galaxies.

The light part of the universe has to be perfect - no room for error.

Earth spins on an ~~axis~~ axis at exactly the correct degree. A few degrees one way or another and life doesn't exist.

We haven't mentioned the crown jewel of all creation - the human body. Verdict is in - there is a God!

III

Why did God record the story of creation? Did he need it for his ego--no! Did he do it to prove he is God? No
creation - is proof

History is important. If we are to know why we are here and what is ~~the purpose~~ our purpose, ~~we~~ we have to know it starts with God.

the question from the maybe voice "If its not about me, who is it about" might be getting some answers.

And God saw that it is good. God brought Order. Our God is not a God of chaos + disorder, but a God of peace. Nothing is half done - no loose ends. We see throughout scripture, particularly His plan of salvation - no detail left undone.

Gen 1:1 isn't the only place in the Bible we see "In the beginning

John 1:1-4 = Jesus is the creator
1:14 - The Word became flesh

One more time - O.T. - points forward to Jesus.

Matthew 28:16-20

We were introduced to Jesus in Genesis 1 and now Jesus is giving his final instructions. It feels a bit ^{sad} like bookends. He has been given all authority

"Now you go and fulfill the great commission" make disciples of all nations, baptizing, teaching them all as I have commanded you." Does this mean we have failed if you haven't baptized anyone, or gone overseas to bring the gospel - No. We send!

We are disciples - followers - learning from other people's actions, how they lead ~~their~~ their lives. We copy the life of Jesus, we disciple after him. We are the "city on the hill" - people watch us - we are the example, for ~~most~~ ^{some} of us that is our commission. We live by a different standard

IV

e
If you don't know why + what you are doing here - Ask God
on the beginning - God - It starts right there it all began with
God - he created you - he owns you - you were made for God.
If it wasn't for God - life would have no purpose. What does
pursuit of riches ~~do~~ pursuit of pleasure - power, standing in
society - community do for you?

Solomon said (paraphrasing) on Ecclesiastes - what good is life if you
don't believe in God, you can gain the world (he should know), in the
end you die.

~~If you don't know If life confuses~~

If your life is a life of confusion - ask your creator
He has a plan - otherwise - he wouldn't have made you
if you luck into the talents you have. ^{No.} Our Designer is organized,
there are no loose ends in God's plan

If you live ^{for} your God - everything else loses importance
_{life}

~~Jesus didn't die on the cross so you could be rich.
you could be powerful~~

~~IV~~ V

to God be the glory