



September 7, 2026

Most of you are familiar with the name Albert Schweitzer. What you may not know is that in his theological views, Schweitzer was not very orthodox. Today he would be regarded with suspicion. I need for you to understand that so that you will appreciate Dr. Fred Craddock's story about this remarkable man.

"I think I was 20 years old when I read Albert Schweitzer's Quest for the Historical Jesus. I found his Christology lacking. I marked it up, wrote in the margins, raised questions of all kinds. One day I read that Schweitzer was going to be in Cleveland, Ohio, to play a dedicatory concert for a big organ in a big church up there. I bought a Greyhound bus ticket and went to Cleveland. All the way up there I worked on his book, laying out my questions, making reference to the pages because I figured, if there was a conversation in the Fellowship Hall, there would be room for a question or two.

I went there, heard the concert and rushed into the Fellowship Hall, sat in the front row and waited with my lap of questions. After a while he came in, shaggy hair, big white mustache, stooped, and seventy-five years old. You know he was a master organist, a medical doctor, philosopher, Biblical scholar, lecturer, writer, everything. He stood in front of the crowd, and there I was, close.

Dr. Schweitzer thanked everybody: "You have been very warm, hospitable to me. I thank you for it, and I wish I could stay longer among you, but I must go back to Africa because my people are poor and diseased and hungry and dying, and I have to go. We

have a medical station at Lambarene. If there is anyone in this room who has the love of Jesus, would you be prompted by that love to go with me and help me?"

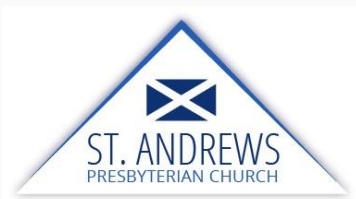
I looked down at my questions, writes Fred Craddock, and they were so absolutely stupid. And I learned again what it means to be Christian and had hopes that I could be that someday.

Fred Craddock was in the presence of a man who knew his purpose in life...to serve Christ by serving others.

What is the purpose of your life? I can tell that all of you who worked on STAMP this year and in the past years have some sense of your purpose in life. Success is not measured in comparison to the accomplishments of others. Success is fulfilling the purpose that God has assigned to each of us.

~Written by Rev. Pam Pendexter

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