

## Living on Purpose

What is the purpose of the church? To help us answer that question read a bit of history. Tom Peters in his book, The Search For Excellence relates the following.

In the late 1800s, no business matched the financial and political power of the railroad companies. Trains dominated the transportation industry of the United States, moving people and goods throughout the country.

When the automobile was invented it had the potential to outgrow the railroad industry, which it eventually did. The railroads, with their industrial and financial advantage, had the opportunity to move right into the automobile industry and dominate that as well. However, the railroad industry failed to do this.

Tom Peters points out that the railroad barons didn't understand what business they were in. Their thinking was that they were in the train business. They were really in the transportation business. They failed to answer correctly, "What business are we in?"

The railroad industry chose the goal of preserving railroads. Over time, trucks and automobiles became the tools of choice for moving people and distributing products. The railroad industry leaders had lost their opportunity to grow and prosper.

The parallels for the church are crucial. If we fail to see our purpose, and work to fulfill it, we will miss our opportunity to grow and prosper.

What business is the church in? How we answer that question will determine, in large part, the future of our church.

- pastor Robin