

The Search for Meaning in Life

The hopelessness of the human condition is no surprise to God. In fact, about 3,000 years ago, God showed an ancient king just how meaningless life on earth is and the secret to finding meaning in life. Near the end of his life, King Solomon realized through his own experience that without God, there is only hopelessness and emptiness in life, even if you're the richest, wisest, most extravagant king who ever lived.

All We Are is Dust in the Wind.

I. Everything is **M**_____.

3 What do people gain from all their labors at which they toil under the sun? 4 Generations come and generations go, but the earth remains forever 10 Is there anything of which one can say, "Look! This is something new"? It was here already, long ago; it was here before our time. 11 No one remembers the former generations, and even those yet to come will not be remembered by those who follow them. – Ecclesiastes 1

- A. No matter how hard you work, you'll never make **L**_____ change. – Ecc 1:3-4
- B. It's all be done before. – Ecc 1:10
- C. Eventually all your accomplishments will be **F**_____. – Ecc 1:11

II. Pursuing **W**_____ is Meaningless

I said to myself, "Look, I have increased in wisdom more than anyone who has ruled over Jerusalem before me; I have experienced much of wisdom and knowledge." Then I applied myself to the understanding of wisdom, and also of madness and folly, but I learned that this, too, is a chasing after the wind. For with much wisdom comes much sorrow; the more knowledge, the more grief. Ecclesiastes 1:16-18

III. **P**_____ is Meaningless – Ecc 2:1-11

I said to myself, "Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good." But that also proved to be meaningless. "Laughter," I said, "is madness. And what does pleasure accomplish?" I tried cheering myself with wine, and embracing folly—my mind still guiding me with wisdom. I wanted to see what was good for people to do under the heavens during the few days of their lives.

I undertook great projects: I built houses for myself and planted vineyards. I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. I made reservoirs to water groves of flourishing trees. I bought male and female slaves and had other slaves who were born in my house. I also owned more herds and flocks than anyone in Jerusalem before me. I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I acquired male and female singers, and a harem as well—the delights of a man's heart. I became greater by far than anyone in Jerusalem before me. In all this my wisdom stayed with me. I denied myself nothing my eyes desired;

I refused my heart no pleasure. My heart took delight in all my labor, and this was the reward for all my toil. Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun. – Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

- A. **G**_____
- B. Wine
- C. **A**_____
- D. Sex
- E. **A**_____
- F. Hard Work

Without God, there is no hope, meaning, purpose, and satisfaction in this life. Let Jesus lead you.