



Ecclesiastes 1 – Does Life Have a Purpose?

ADAM LONG

| Week of September 16th, 2018

SERMON OVERVIEW //

Over the next seven weeks we will be walking through seven questions that help us better explore God together. This week we approached the question: **Does Life Have a Purpose?**

SERMON TEXT // Ecclesiastes 1 (Focus: vv.1-4) & Ephesian 2:10

¹ *The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.* ² *Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.* ³ *What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun?* ⁴ *A generation goes, and a generation comes, but the earth remains forever.* (English Standard Version)

This word **vanity** is the Hebrew word **hebel** and can literally be translated to *vapor* or *meaningless*. So in saying **vanity of vanities** Solomon is saying life lived for the sake of life is meaningless. Life lived for this world alone is **vanity**.

For us to avoid a life of meaningless vanity we must live a life of fear and faith. In regards to **fearing God** we are talking about a healthy reverence and awe towards God. And when we talk about **faith in God** that is a very humble and teachable trust fully placed in God. We must develop a fear that strengthens our faith and a faith that strengthens our fear.

Solomon processes through this thinking in this way over the entire book of Ecclesiastes:

Ecclesiastes 1: Life is meaningless. (1:2-4)

Ecclesiastes 3: Life can only have meaning in God. Fearing God (3:4)

Ecclesiastes 12: Life has meaning in keeping God's commandments. Faith in God. (12:13-14)

The Apostle Paul describes a life of fear and faith this way: *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Eph. 2 esv)*

To put it simply: **Life is meaningless without God, but God gives everything meaning.**

Does life have a purpose?

Yes, the purpose of life is to fear God and place our faith in Him.



Discussion Questions - Does Life Have a Purpose?

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Week of September 16th, 2018

Question 1

If you were at church Sunday or was able to catch the sermon online this week - what was something that resonated with you or something you wrote down from the sermon?

Question 2

Our question for the week was "**Does Life Have A Purpose?**" The Barna Research Company conducted a survey that resulted 85% of people are clear about the meaning and purpose of their life (64% 'strongly agree', 21% 'somewhat agree' and 15% 'disagreed'). **As of today - how would you answer that question? Please explain...**

Question 3

Read **Ecclesiastes 1** together as a group. Solomon said that all things in life are **vanity**. He had sought after so many great things only to find they did not satisfy his desire for his life to have purpose. **Can you recall a time you were striving after something other than God for purpose? Please share...**

Question 4

In what ways might someone's view of eternity affect their sense of meaning and purpose?

Question 5

How do we as individuals live in a way that shows our purpose is found in God? How can we do that as a community group? As a local church?

Question 6

How can we join you in prayer tonight and throughout this week as you seek to live for God with purpose?