



Meaning of Life – Sunday, May 6th

SCRIPTURE:

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

The words of the Teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem: “Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher. “Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.” What do people gain from all their labors at which they toil under the sun? Generations come and generations go, but the earth remains forever. The sun rises and the sun sets, and hurries back to where it rises. The wind blows to the south and turns to the north; round and round it goes, ever returning on its course. All streams flow into the sea, yet the sea is never full. To the place the streams come from, there they return again. All things are wearisome, more than one can say. The eye never has enough of seeing, nor the ear its fill of hearing. What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun. 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. No one remembers the former generations, and even those yet to come will not be remembered by those who follow them.

Ecclesiastes 12:13

“Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind.”

Sermon Points:

- *You do have value and purpose. There is meaning to life. Even though we are all broken in more ways that we know, We are also more loved than we could ever imagine.*
- *But what if we didn't have this perspective? What if God and eternity were removed from the scene? What could we say for sure about our intrinsic worth and purpose?*
- *Teacher (Ecclesiastes 1:1) – Qoheleth – the one who gathers together... people or perspectives. But the author will have the final word.*
- *“Meaningless” – Hevel – not a total lack of meaning in everything, but rather that meaning is found elsewhere. (Breath or Smoke)*
- *“Under the sun” – is basically talking about life as we experience it in our temporary time frame. It is both a spatial reference and a time reference.*
- *We play pretend as if we will never die, but only by preparing to die, will we learn how to truly live.*
- *Fear, that is to be in awe and worship God and obey him or walk in his ways and you can be assured of his presence with you both in your days “under the sun” and in eternity to come.*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the first thing that comes to your mind when you hear the words “meaning of life?”
 2. How does it make you feel to hear someone say the following – *“You do have value and purpose. There is meaning to life. Even though we are all broken in more ways than we know, We are also more loved than we could ever imagine?”*
 3. What if God and eternity were removed from the scene? What could we say for sure about our intrinsic worth and purpose if that were the case (See Ecclesiastes 1:1)?
 4. How does it make you feel to hear that your life is merely a breath or vapor?
 5. Why do people “play pretend” and act like they will never die?
 6. What does it mean that “only by preparing to die, will we learn how to truly live?”
 7. What is one thing God spoke to your heart today? What is God calling you to do in response to what you heard?
- If you need help figuring out your “next steps,” including finding a counselor or a Small Group connection, then email connect@covechurch.com.