

LIVING LIFE BACKWARD

The Book of Ecclesiastes

Bible study for the week starting July 14, 2024

SHARE

When God invited Solomon to “ask what I shall give you” (2 Chronicles 1:7), Solomon asked for wisdom. For what would you ask if God gave you this option?

READ/STUDY/DISCUSS

1. Read **Ecclesiastes 1**. It's speculation, but assume Solomon probably wrote this book toward the end of his 55 years of life. What insight does that give into chapter 1 and why he might be writing?
2. The word often translated as vanity means “emptiness, vapor, mere breath, striving after wind, frustration.” Have you had these feelings, and what prompted them?
3. Life is fleeting and has no meaning ...apart from God's love in Christ Jesus. The second half of that phrase gives clarity to pretty much every situation in life. Without Jesus, life is meaningless; with Jesus, life is abundant and meaningful. Has this been your experience? How?
4. Read **Galatians 3:10-14**. What is true, godly wisdom? How would you define it?
5. Read **John 7:37-52**. Solomon may have been the wisest man who walked this earth...until Jesus, of whom people said, “No one ever spoke like this man!” Jesus is the wisdom of God *personified*. What does he offer of meaning and value in these verses?

PRAY

The goal of this study of Ecclesiastes is that working backward from your knowledge of how life ends will inform your journey. Pray that God would give you the sort of wisdom that changes your daily life.

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THE QUEST FOR MEANING

Ecclesiastes 1:1-18 (Galatians 3:10-14; John 7:37-52)

July 14, 2024 – Pastor Eric Van Scharrel

The most INTERESTING man in the world

Qoheleth = “leader of the ASSEMBLY”

VANITY / meaningless / empty / VAPOR / mere breath / striving after wind / FRUSTRATION

Life is FLEETING and has NO MEANING... apart from God’s love in Christ Jesus. FAITH worked in us by the power of the Gospel brings meaning to life and the CERTAINTY of forgiveness, life and salvation.

Take the one thing in your future that is certain – DEATH – and let that inform your journey.

The things of this life aren’t actually meaningless; they’re just not the MAIN thing.

Stoicism – rooted in Biblical MORALITY and TEACHING:

- 1) VIRTUE is sufficient for happiness
- 2) Other so-called goods are regarded with indifference
- 3) The world is PROVIDENTIALLY ordered by God

Eudaimonia = “the activity of the SOUL in accordance with virtue” = when you are good at being YOU

...Except in CHRIST...

For next week, please read Ecclesiastes 2.