



Ecclesiastes 1:1-18 In Search of Significance

The problem: We were made for significance. CS Lewis says *If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world.* Gen. 1-3 shows that even though Man was created with intrinsic value, made in the image of God to be in relationship with God and with others with a work to do; sin cursed all those areas and doomed us to futility to constantly strive to plug that empty dissatisfaction.

Conclusions:

1. **The Futility of Philosophy:** It is futile to attempt to gain significance with our own wisdom.

V.16-18 Philosophy, like psychology, **can offer observations about life, but they don't hold the prescription for living life.** CS Lewis: *God cannot give us peace and happiness apart from him because it is simply not there.*

2. **Follow the fruit:** Which tree bears good fruit? Mt. 7.
 - a. **Follow Nietzsche:** The fruit of Nietzsche's thinking- premature death, insanity and a philosophy that greatly influenced Hitler. Letters reveal him to be hard-hearted, belligerent, lonely and self-pitying.
 - b. **Follow Jesus:** Gal. 5:22 *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.* John 10:10 *Life in abundance.*

3. **The Folly of Life under the sun or the Fullness of life under the Son**

This book reveals that even our most clever thinking can neither save us, nor give us lasting meaning. One greater than Solomon is needed. We only find the fullness of life under the Son. **1 Cor. 1:18-25; 30-31** The cross turns all human wisdom on its head as an avenue for finding significance in life. *The way to gain your life is to lose it, the way to be great is to serve, the way to save your life is to surrender it.*

Grow Group Questions:

1. Compare verse 4 with 1 Cor. 15:58 *"Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that **in the Lord** your labor is not in **vain**"* Note the language. It's the same Bible, why the different perspective? How can my work give me meaning? (Hint: Col 3:17,23)
2. Think of activities that you have engaged in that brought some form of meaning to your life (kids, work, activity, people). Why does it always leave us feeling empty with time?
3. How do I cultivate a life of fullness under the "Son"?
4. Share a testimony or an observation of the fruit of someone who has followed the wisdom of Jesus and/or the fruit of follow man's wisdom.

Announcements 2/19

- Young Adults - 2/21 at the Graham's house at 6:30pm. All who are out of High school and under 30 are welcome to attend!
- "To the Church in Rome" Play - 2/25 and 2/26. Doors Open at 5:30pm, begins at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.
- Freedom Bazaar - 2/28 from 4:00pm to 8:30pm in Fellowship Hall.
- Go to feathersoundchurch.com/prayer-events for corporate prayer times or pray on your own!