

< **LIVING LIFE**

**BACKWARD** >

First Congregational Church  
505 W. Mulberry St. Kokomo, IN 46901

[kokomofirstcongo.org](http://kokomofirstcongo.org)

**MEANINGLESS!**

**MEANINGLESS!**

**EVERYTHING IS MEANINGLESS!**

< **LIVING LIFE**  
**BACKWARD** >

First Congregational Church  
505 W. Mulberry St. Kokomo, IN 46901  
[kokomofirstcongo.org](http://kokomofirstcongo.org)

**THE CERTAINTY OF THE  
END GIVES CLARITY TO  
HOW WE LIVE NOW**

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.

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. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

# HEBEL

Breath - Vapor - Mist - Smoke

**WHEN WE REMEMBER  
THAT LIFE IS SHORT, WE  
START LIVING FOR WHAT  
ACTUALLY MATTERS.**

Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

Teach us to number our days,  
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

**PSALM 90:12**

Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring.

**PROVERBS 27:1**

**WHEN WE REMEMBER  
THAT LIFE IS SHORT, WE  
START LIVING FOR WHAT  
ACTUALLY MATTERS.**

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. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of  
wisdom,  
and knowledge of the Holy One is  
understanding.

**PROVERBS 9:10**

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

**1 CORINTHIANS 15:58**

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

- 1. LIVE WITH OPEN HANDS**
- 2. LIVE TODAY IN LIGHT OF  
THE END**

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- 1. WHEN YOU HEAR ECCLESIASTES SAY LIFE IS “VAPOR,” WHAT DOES THAT STIR UP IN YOU, AND WHY?**
- 2. ECCLESIASTES PUSHES US TO ASK BETTER QUESTIONS: WHAT REALLY MATTERS? WHAT WILL MATTER BEFORE GOD? HOW CAN I LIVE FAITHFULLY NOW? WHICH QUESTION DO YOU NEED TO REFLECT ON MOST?**
- 3. WHAT WOULD IT LOOK LIKE THIS WEEK TO LIVE WITH OPEN HANDS OR LIVE TODAY IN LIGHT OF THE END?**