

LESSONS LEARNED

December 1, 2019

I. REVIEW

A Sunday drive slows you down enough to think about what drives you.

Ecclesiastes 1:14 I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

1. Everything is meaningless.

2. We all live under the sun.

3. We are all chasing after the wind.

II. LESSONS LEARNED

1. Everything Is Meaningless...Unless It Isn't

Ecclesiastes 12:8 “Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher. “Everything is meaningless!”

A. Everything is temporary. Nothing is permanent.

B. Everything is meaningless, but everything matters.

1) It is meaningless when you live for yourself. It matters when you live for God.

2) You are the steward and not the owner.

C. Life is meaningless without God.

1) Your time matters.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

2) Your money matters.

Ecclesiastes 5:19 Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil—this is a gift of God.

Proverbs 11:24-25 One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

3) *Your work matters.*

Ecclesiastes 3:22 So I saw that there is nothing better for a person than to enjoy their work, because that is their lot. For who can bring them to see what will happen after them?

4) *Your family matters.*

Ecclesiastes 9:9 Enjoy life with your wife, whom you love, all the days of this meaningless life that God has given you under the sun—all your meaningless days. For this is your lot in life and in your toilsome labor under the sun.

5) *Your choices matter.*

Ecclesiastes 11:9 You who are young, be happy while you are young, and let your heart give you joy in the days of your youth. Follow the ways of your heart and whatever your eyes see, but know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment.

- Living for pleasure does not last.

Ecclesiastes 2:1 I said to myself, “Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good.” But that also proved to be meaningless.

2. We All Live Under The Sun...Until We Don't

Ecclesiastes 12:14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

A. It is meaningless when we live for today. It matters when we live for eternity.

B. Without judgement, there is no meaning.

Ecclesiastes 3:17 I said to myself, “God will bring into judgment both the righteous and the wicked, for there will be a time for every activity, a time to judge every deed.”

1) *Your life will be judged by others; this is your legacy.*

Ecclesiastes 7:1-2 A good name is better than fine perfume, and the day of death better than the day of birth. It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting, for death is the destiny of everyone; the living should take this to heart.

2) *Your life will be judged by God; this is your eternity.*

Matthew 12:36-37 But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.”

- You are accountable for your words.

1 Corinthians 4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God.

- You are accountable for your thoughts.

2 Corinthians 5:9-10 So we make it our goal to please Him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

- You are accountable for your actions.

Ecclesiastes 8:12 Although a wicked person who commits a hundred crimes may live a long time, I know that it will go better with those who fear God, who are reverent before him.

Romans 2:16 This will take place on the day when God judges people's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

- Jesus forgives our sins.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

3. We Are All Chasing After the Wind...Except For When We Are Not

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.

A. Life is meaningless without God.

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

- 1) *To fear God is to know who He is.*

Ecclesiastes 3:14 I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that people will fear Him.

Ecclesiastes 8:12 Although a wicked person who commits a hundred crimes may live a long time, I know that it will go better with those who fear God, who are reverent before him.

2) *To fear God is to know who you are.*

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.

B. We live to know God and do His will.

Ecclesiastes 5:7 Much dreaming and many words are meaningless. Therefore, fear God.

Ecclesiastes 7:18 It is good to grasp the one and not let go of the other. Whoever fears God will avoid all extremes.

Acts 17:31 For He has set a day when He will judge the world with justice by the Man He has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising Him from the dead.

1) *Nothing matters...And everything matters*

2) *What are you living for?*