

Ecclesiastes 1:1-18

In this life, everything is useless apart from God's purpose

- World changers - memorialized for the edited narrative

Ecclesiastes 1:1-10

- V1 - "The Preacher" Is King Solomon
- V2-3 - Vanity = havel = breath/vapor
 - everything is futile = pointless, useless/doomed to fail
 - Matthew 16:26
- V4-7 - Life is but a brief moment
 - Creation remains unchanged
 - The cycles of nature that never end
 - The nature of life is never satisfied
 - Sea that is never full
- V8 - life and the work within is full of weariness
 - Toil, pursuit, exhaustion, growing weary from work
 - Man cannot express
- V9-11 - What has been will continue to be
 - History repeats itself
 - There are no new ideas
 - Repetition of Christian themes (Media, Movies, Shows)
 - No one will remember the former things
 - Very few will be remembered beyond a generation
- V12-14 - The pursuit of wisdom results in the same conclusion
- V15-18 - Conclusion of the Preacher
 - Injustice can never be made right/Human beings have limitations
 - Growth in wisdom results in added sorrow because wisdom under the sun cannot answer life's important questions of meaning and purpose.

Life with God through Christ alters our reality

- Jesus tells us to abide in Him (John 15) apart from Him we can do nothing
 - We want to affect the masses but numbers do not mean you are more or less effective

- **Don't pursue quantity, seek Quality**
 - Change the world for the people you love
 - Parents, you are the world to your Children
 - There are people in your life that look up to you and think the world of you
 - Random encounters can change the trajectory of someone's entire life
 - Teach them the ways of Christ
 - Be the example of Christ-likeness in public and behind closed doors
 - Be the person Christ wants you to be - who they want to be
- **This is the only pursuit in life that brings satisfaction**
 - Pursue what counts and deprioritize the things that don't
 - Work in this world is a chasing after the wind
 - Creation truly will be unaffected when we're gone

Balance the Paradox

- We are created to work (Gen 2:15)
 - A man that does not provide for his family is worse than an unbeliever (1 Tim 5:8)
 - Result of the Fall - Work will be strenuous
 - Everything that we do we do as if unto Christ (Col 3:23)
- We should seek wisdom (James 1:5) - the world will not have the answers to life's most important questions (Meaning and Purpose)
 - Learning from the world apart from God is pointless
 - Know how the world think without being like them
 - Proverbs 26:4-5
 - Take the ways of the world and bring them to the ways of Christ
- **Everything that we do is influenced by God and His Kingdom**