

SERIES: MAY- JULY: THE MAIN THING

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Scripture: Ecclesiastes

TITLE – Ecclesiastes – The Meaning of Life

What is the meaning of life? That topic has been the focus of conversation for countless years. It is such a big topic that even Monty Python made a movie about it. And what was their answer? It was the classic answer. Michael Palin said the meaning of life is “Nothing very special. Try to be nice to people. Avoid eating too much fat. Read a good book every now and then. Get some walking in. And try to live in peace and harmony with people of all creeds and nations.”

Now at the tale end of the movie, it’s a pretty good punch line. But if we’re honest, it’s not a meaningful goal. It’s doable but not purposeful.

Is there more to life? Just what is the meaning of life? This is what the Book of Ecclesiastes answers.

The Book of Ecclesiastes means “preacher.” I like this book already! It’s a book written by the wisest person who ever lived? Who’s that? King Solomon. King Solomon was well qualified to write this book. Here is a man who had it all. He had money, power, prestige, influence, and women. According to 2 Kings, Solomon had over 700 wives and 300 concubines. He knew a thing or two because he saw a thing or two.

The book’s keyword is vanity. Pursuing life’s goals as ends to themselves is vanity, or we might say meaningless. A life filled with life’s best apart from God leads to dissatisfaction and frustration. The book uses the word vanity 37 times and the phrase “under the sun” 29 times. The goal is to help us understand having a life to the fullest instead of a life void of meaning.

The book is nicely divided into three parts. Chapter 1 contains the thesis: Life is meaningless apart from God. Chapters 1-6 contain the evidence. Chapters 7-12 provide the solution: fear God.

Is Christ found in the Book of Ecclesiastes? Not explicitly. But it does echo much of what we find throughout the rest of Scripture. In Ecclesiastes 3:11 (CSB),

[“He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also put eternity in their hearts, but no one can discover the work God has done from beginning to end.”](#)

You see, at the end of the day, we all know that there is more to life than this. We do have a hole in our souls that cannot be filled with anything else but a relationship with God. That relationship, as John 14:6 tells us, is found in Jesus Christ alone.

Many people today avoid Christianity because they’ve been fed a lie. They’ve been told your best life now is only available on this earth and through the world’s offerings. Jesus Christ has the real way of life.

Jesus said this in John 10:9-10,

“I am the gate. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance.”

The full and abundant life is found in a relationship with Jesus Christ alone.

What is the main thing of Ecclesiastes? Solomon answers in Ecclesiastes 12:13: “Fear God and keep his commands.” What’s the main thing. Know God. Trust God. Follow God. That’s it.

So here’s my challenge for you today: Know, trust, and follow God. But if you’re like me, you struggle in one or more areas. For me, it’s trusting God. I have spent my career knowing God. But I struggle to trust Him completely. How about you? How do you struggle? Put it in the comments below. And then, ask God to make this weakness a strength. Today, know, trust, and follow God. That’s the meaning of life. And that is life to the fullest.