

Ecclesiastes

LIFE ISN'T MEANINGLESS—IT'S MISPLACED WITHOUT GOD

HCC Sermon Series Deep Dive

The book of Ecclesiastes opens up with the line, “The words of the teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem.” Many believe this to be King Solomon, but what makes this book unique is the perspective of the author and the teacher. The author of the book of Ecclesiastes is quoting the words from the teacher, then summarizes and evaluates everything the teacher has said in the conclusion.

What does the teacher have to say though? Everything starts and grows out of the very first statement in Ecclesiastes 1:2 which says, “*Meaningless! Meaningless!*” says the Teacher. “*Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.*” The Hebrew word *hevel* used for “meaningless” would literally refer to “vapor” or “smoke.” This word is used 38 times throughout the book to describe the fleeting and temporary nature of life. Smoke appears as if it is solid like you could reach out and grab it, but if you did, you would be left with nothing in your hands.

Here’s what the teacher is getting at... There is so much goodness and beauty in the world, but just when you are enjoying it, tragedy strikes and it all seems to blow away. Most people believe in right and wrong and have a sense of justice, so why do bad things happen to good people all the time, despite our best intentions? Life is constantly unpredictable and unstable or, in the teacher’s description, like “chasing the wind.” Nothing is guaranteed, and, strangely, that’s the beauty of it. When we adopt a posture of complete trust in God, it frees us to simply enjoy life as we actually experience it and not as we think it ought to be. We look to God who is in control, consistent, trustworthy, and whose steadfast love endures forever. Feel free to use the table below to follow along or adapt this list with your Journey Group using the 3/3rds methods with each Scripture to discover that *life isn’t meaningless—it’s just misplaced without God.*

Week of	Scripture
April 12	Ecclesiastes 1:1-18
April 19	Ecclesiastes 2:1-26
April 26	Ecclesiastes 3:1-22
May 3	Ecclesiastes 4:1-16
May 10	Ecclesiastes 5:1-20
May 17	Ecclesiastes 11:1-10
May 24	Ecclesiastes 12:1-14