

PM Outline
Sunday, January 29, 2012
“Meaningless”
Ecclesiastes 3:1-14, 2:17-25
NIV page 1037

INTRODUCTION: Go Blue / Go Green / Go Away
~ Ecclesiastes 2:20

²⁰ So my heart began to despair over all my toilsome labor under the sun.

~ Ecclesiastes 1:1-2

¹ The words of the Teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem:

² “Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher. “Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.”

I. Is there purpose and meaning to life?

~ Genesis 1:1

¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

II. What makes life significant?

III. What the teacher knew...

IV. The Answer

(Ecclesiastes 2:24-25 yet Ecclesiastes 1:2)

²⁴ A man can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in his work. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, ²⁵ for without him, who can eat or find enjoyment?

2 a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot,

A. Eat and drink and fear God

~ Ecclesiastes 3:12-13

¹² I know that there is nothing better for men than to be happy and do good while they live. ¹³ That everyone may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all his toil—this is the gift of God.

~ Ecclesiastes 12:13

¹³ Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter:

Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.

B. With God ~ 1 Timothy 6:17

¹⁷ Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

~ James 1:16-17a

¹⁶ Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. ¹⁷ Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father ...

CONCLUSION

Ecclesiastes 3:1-14

¹ There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: ² a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, ³ a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, ⁴ a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, ⁵ a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain, ⁶ a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, ⁷ a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, ⁸ a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

⁹ What does the worker gain from his toil? ¹⁰ I have seen the burden God has laid on men. ¹¹ He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end. ¹² I know that there is nothing better for men than to be happy and do good while they live. ¹³ That everyone may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all his toil—this is the gift of God. 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 men will revere him.

Ecclesiastes 2:17-25

¹⁷ So I hated life, because the work that is done under the sun was grievous to me. All of it is meaningless, a chasing after the wind. ¹⁸ I hated all the things I had toiled for under the sun, because I must leave them to the one who comes after me. ¹⁹ And who knows whether he will be a wise man or a fool? Yet he will have control over all the work into which I have poured my effort and skill under the sun. This too is meaningless. ²⁰ So my heart began to despair over all my toilsome labor under the sun. ²¹ For a man may do his work with wisdom, knowledge and skill, and then he must leave all he owns to someone who has not worked for it. This too is meaningless and a great misfortune. ²² What does a man get for all the toil and anxious striving with which he labors under the sun? ²³ All his days his work is pain and grief; even at night his mind does not rest. This too is meaningless.

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Ecclesiastes 1:1-2

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Ecclesiastes 2:24-25

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Ecclesiastes 1:2

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