

WHEN LIFE IS MEANINGLESS

Ecclesiastes 1-2, 5:18-20

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- What gives life meaning?
- Who in your life has imparted valuable wisdom to you?

Have you ever wondered about the meaning of life? As humans, we tend to long for meaning and value. We want our work to mean something. We long to contribute something of value. Consequently, it can be shocking and disconcerting when we read the Teacher's refrain in Ecclesiastes, "Meaningless! Meaningless! Everything is meaningless." And yet studying his words helps us consider the sources of our own value and identity. Through this evaluation, we will learn and grow in our faith and we'll discover where we can find hope and value even when it seems like life is meaningless.

Listen: [*When Life is Meaningless*](#)

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- Why is it easy to lose hope when life feels meaningless, not worth the effort, or monotonous?
- Were you shocked that the Teacher's seemingly hopeless words are in the Bible? Why or why not? Have you ever struggled with negativity yourself or realized that you've been sucked into someone else's negativity?
- In segment 2, host Darrell Delaney says, "if we put our identity and our value in all the things we have amassed for ourselves, then we realize that that too is a chasing after the wind, and that is what the Teacher is trying to let us know." What insight does this perspective give you as you think about the Teacher's claims of meaninglessness in Ecclesiastes? Does it offer you any insights or perspective on any struggle you might currently be experiencing?
- Throughout the episode Darrell and host Scott Hoezee discuss the Teacher's claims that there is nothing new under the sun, that wisdom is meaningless, that pleasure is meaningless, and that work is meaningless. They also noted that studying Ecclesiastes will "challenge us to look deeply into situations that we would rather not look into." Did you notice anything stirring in you as they discussed the Teacher's claims of meaninglessness? Did any one of his claims, in particular, make you uncomfortable? Did you find it hard to accept that something he mentioned was meaningless? Why do you think that is?

Related Passages

- **Job 7:6-16**
- **1 Corinthians 13:9-12**

- 1 John 2:15-17
- 1 John 3:1-3

Conclusion

What do you think of Scott's theory at the end of segment 3 that Ecclesiastes is a preview of the cross? Christ enters the meaninglessness and redeems it, "that is our bright hope." Close your time of reflection in conversation with God about your responses to the questions above and give thanks for the hope Christ gives you.

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/when-life-is-meaningless>

Printed on April 25, 2024