

LIVING WITH PURPOSE

THE MESSAGE OF ECCLESIASTES

Ecclesiastes 1 (NIV)

- 1 The words of the Teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem:
- 2 “Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher. “Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.”
- 3 What do people gain from all their labors at which they toil under the sun?
- 4 Generations come and generations go, but the earth remains forever.

Ecclesiastes 1

Wisdom Is Meaningless

¹² I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³ I applied my mind to study and to explore by wisdom all that is done under the heavens. What a heavy burden God has laid on mankind! ¹⁴ I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

Ecclesiastes 2

Pleasures Are Meaningless

¹ I said to myself, "Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good." But that also proved to be meaningless. ² "Laughter," I said, "is madness. And what does pleasure accomplish?"

Ecclesiastes 2

Work Is Meaningless

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.

Ecclesiastes 5

Wealth is Meaningless

10 Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless.

Ecclesiastes 3

1 There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens...

11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet[a] no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

Ecclesiastes 12

1 Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, "I find no pleasure in them!"

Ecclesiastes 12

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

Fear God and keep his commandments,
for this is the duty of all mankind.

14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

What is there in the earth worth
living for but the glory of God
and the salvation of souls?



William Carey
(1761-1834)