

“Is Life Worth Living?”

Ecclesiastes 1-2

Pastor John Miller

Introduction: Is life worth living?

- * **This is the question that is asked and answered in the book of Ecclesiastes.**

- * **16.2 million Adults suffer from Depression annually in the U.S.A. and 47,000 commit suicide in the U.S.A. annually.**

- * **For many, life is empty. They search for satisfaction and find no real purpose or meaning to life.**

- * **If that’s where you find yourself, then the book of Ecclesiastes is for you!**

- * **King Solomon was the wisest, wealthiest and most powerful man living in all of Israel, and perhaps the world at the time, but he had turned away from God.**
 - **He went into the “laboratory of life” to perform some experiments to see if life was worth living.**
 - **His findings were (v. 2) “life is empty.”**
 - **Why? (v. 3) “under the sun”**
 - **He was looking at life without God from a human perspective.**
 - **This is the same reason today that many feel that life is not worth living. They have forgotten God!**

- * **We must look at life from “above the sun;” from God’s perspective.**
 - **Only God can bring purpose and meaning to life!**

- * **Let’s look together at the arguments Solomon gave to prove that life is not worth living.**
 - **Remember, he had forgotten God and was only seeing life “under the sun” (v. 3).**

I. The Monotony of Life (1:4-11)

- * **Solomon gives us two reasons he saw life as monotonous:**
 - 1) **Nothing changes (v.v. 4-7)**
 - 2) **Nothing is new (v.v. 8-11)**

* Remember, this is true only if you look at life “under the sun,” and leave God out of the picture. Then your world becomes a closed system that is uniform, predictable and unchangeable.

- Illustration- No answers to prayer and no miracles, just the circle of life.

* There is a God who has and does hear and answer prayer. He works wonders for His people!

- For Joshua- the sun stood still
- For Israel- He opened the Red Sea
- For Elijah- He turned off and on the rain
- For Mary- She became pregnant as a virgin
- Jesus- turned water into wine

* When you, by faith receive Jesus Christ:

- God becomes your Father, and you become a new creation.
- You can sing “This is my Father’s world...”

* Is your life monotonous?

- If so, perhaps you have forgotten God!

II. The Vanity of Humanistic Wisdom (v.v. 12-18)

* Solomon moves from science and nature (v.v. 4-11) to philosophy (v.v. 12-18).

* Man can’t find God by human wisdom.

- They need “revelation” and the Bible!
- It’s heavenly wisdom or divine wisdom.
- It’s the fear of the Lord.

III. The Vanity of Worldly Pleasure (2:1-11)

* Only God can fill the emptiness in your life!

- You were made to know God!
- The problem- sin!
- God’s solution- the cross.
- Why you must do- have faith
- Jesus said- “Come unto Me all ye....and I will give you rest.”
- Jesus said in John 4 to the Woman at the Well- “...you will never thirst again.”

IV. The Certainty of Death (2:14-18)

- * Life is short!
- * Death is certain!
- * Teach us to number our days
 - The parable of the “foolish farmer”

CONCLUSION

- 1) Life “under the sun” without God is empty. It is not worth living!**
- 2) God brings purpose and meaning to life (2:24).**
 - a. Jesus said- “I have come that you might have life and that you might have it more abundantly.”**
 - b. Medical science can add years to your life, but only Jesus can add life to your years!**