

WORD

¹The words of the Teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem: ²“Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher. “Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.” ³What does man gain from all his labor at which he toils under the sun?

ECCLESIASTES 1:1-3

The book of Ecclesiastes was written by Solomon, considered the wisest man who ever lived. He observed and studied what life would be like apart from God. Solomon had everything he could ever want, including wealth, wisdom, and pleasure. He tried to look for meaning and purpose in everything—as we all do—and yet he came up with this: Apart from God, everything is meaningless, futile, fleeting. In this lesson, we will look at three truths about life to help us understand the true reason for living.

1 Life is short.

⁴Show me, O LORD, my life’s end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting is my life. ⁵You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you. Each man’s life is but a breath. ⁶Man is a mere phantom as he goes to and fro: He bustles about, but only in vain; he heaps up wealth, not knowing who will get it. ⁷But now, Lord, what do I look for? My hope is in you.

PSALM 39:4-7

Solomon’s father, David, prayed to understand how short his life was. Knowing that our lives are but a breath, we are not to waste it. We should live in light of the reality of death and eternal life. According to Ephesians 5:15-17, how, then, are we to live?

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2 Life is for a purpose, not pleasure.

²⁴Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.” **MATTHEW 16:24,25**

Solomon found that pleasure, like life, is meaningless and doesn’t really satisfy. Jesus said that our lives are for a higher purpose—His purpose; and if we try to save our lives, we won’t succeed. But if we lose our lives for Christ, we will find it. How have you lost your life for Christ? According to Ephesians 2:10, what were we created in Christ Jesus to do?

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3 Life is found in Jesus.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **JOHN 1:1**

In the original Greek, the Word (*logos*) actually means reason or the cause of life. This Word is Jesus. He is our reason for living. When everything we do is connected to Him, life takes on meaning. According to John 10:10, what kind of life did Jesus come to give us?

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