



Meaningless: Pleasure, Wealth, and Accomplishments

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Does the ancient book of Ecclesiastes have anything to say to modern people living 3,000 years after it was written?

Solomon's life-stage and the tone of Ecclesiastes

Ecclesiastes 1:2-4

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.

Pursuing pleasures under the sun

Ecclesiastes 2:1-3

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?" 3 I tried cheering myself with wine, and embracing folly—my mind still guiding me with wisdom. I wanted to see what was good for people to do under the heavens during the few days of their lives.

What are ways we seek to find meaning in life through the pursuit of pleasure? How is that going for you?

Finding eternal [joy](#) and [satisfaction](#) in the light of the [Son](#)

Striving for [wealth](#), [riches](#), and [stuff](#) under the Sun

Ecclesiastes 5:10-11 & 15-17

10 Whoever loves money never has enough;

whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income.

This too is meaningless.

11 As goods increase,

so do those who consume them.

And what benefit are they to the owners

except to feast their eyes on them?

15 Everyone comes naked from their mother's womb,

and as everyone comes, so they depart.

They take nothing from their toil

that they can carry in their hands.

16 This too is a grievous evil:

As everyone comes, so they depart,

and what do they gain,

since they toil for the wind?

17 All their days they eat in darkness,

with great frustration, affliction and anger.

Have material things and the accumulation of stuff truly satisfied you?

Embracing the [riches](#) and [infinite wealth](#) offered by the [Son](#)

Looking for [meaning](#) and [purpose](#) in accomplishments under the sun

Ecclesiastes 2:17-21

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 that person will be wise or foolish? Yet they will have control over all the fruit of my toil 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 person may labor with wisdom, knowledge and skill, and then they must leave all they own to another who has not toiled for it. This too is meaningless and a great misfortune.

What accomplishment will bring the peace and satisfaction you long to receive?

Finding [peace](#) and [purpose](#) under the [lordship](#) of the one and only Son

Make a decision today...

I will live as one living "Under the Son," and not "Under the sun!"