What Is The Purpose of Life?

Robert Harkrider · Ecclesiastes 12:13–14

INTRODUCTION

- What is so unusual about the book of Ecclesiastes from other books of the Bible is that it deals with life here and now.
- What profit has a man from all his labor in which he toils under the sun? In other words, what is the purpose of life?

1 Vanity of Vanities, All Is Vanity

- Vanity of vanities, says the preacher. Vanity of vanities, all is vanity.
- The word vanity, found some 37 times in the book, literally means that it's empty. It's of no value. Indeed, it's transitory, it's fleeting.
- I've seen all the works that are done under the sun, and indeed all is vanity, and grasping for the wind.

2 Generations Pass; Nothing New Under the Sun

- One generation passes away and another generation comes.
- That which has been is what will be, that which is done is what will be done, and there's nothing new under the sun.
- There is no remembrance of former things. Nor will there be any remembrance of things that are to come by those who will come after.
- If God allows time to go on, our generation will all pass. Another generation will come, and another generation to follow that, and so on. And we'll be forgotten.

3 Wisdom, Pleasure and Wealth Are Grasping for the Wind

- For in much wisdom is much grief, and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow.
- I said in my heart, come now, I will test you with mirth. Therefore enjoy pleasure. But surely, this also was vanity.
- Pleasure. Flesh is never really fully satisfied. And so he would say it's vanity or grasping for the wind.
- I also gathered for myself silver and gold and the special treasures of kings and of the provinces.
- Then I looked on all the works that my hands had done and on the labor in which I had toiled, and indeed all was vanity and grasping for the wind.

4 One Event Happens to All

- There's one event that still happens to all. What is that? It is death. And we have no guarantee when that may come.
- The best of doctors, all the amount of money could be paid, could not keep life or bring life back. One event happens to all.

- The fact is we're going to die. We do not know when we'll die, but the fact is we'll leave it all behind.

5 Enjoy Good in Your Labor

1 Timothy 6:6–8; 1 Timothy 6:17–19

- Nothing is better for a man than that he should eat and drink, and that his soul should enjoy good in his labor. This also I saw was from the hand of God.
- Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and certain we can carry nothing out.
- God gave us things richly to enjoy, but the focus is to lay hold on eternal life.
- Whether you die at 18 or 118 is not the measure of success in life. It's whether or not you lay hold on eternal life.

6 Fear God and Keep His Commandments

Ecclesiastes 12:13–14; Hebrews 10:26–31; 1 John 5:3

- Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is man's all.
- Fear God, keep his commandments, because judgment's coming.
- It is a fearful thing. To fall into the hands of the living God.
- There's another idea of the word fear, and that is that of respect, the kind of attitude that reverences him.
- This is the love of God. That we keep his commandments.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Why are you here? What is your destiny? What is your goal? What's the purpose of life as you see it? What are you living for?**

MY NOTES