

THE MEANING OF LIFE

Week 1/10 in the series *Ecclesiastes*
April 27, 2014 · *Ecclesiastes 1:1-18* · Pastor Robb Williams

For the next ten weeks we are studying one of the greatest writings on *The Meaning of Life*. Ecclesiastes was written 3,000 years ago, yet seemingly written in, and for, modern times. Whether you are a strong believer, moderate or not quite convinced, Ecclesiastes can be your answer to the timeless question “Why am I here?” Please consider committing yourself to reading through Ecclesiastes once a week for the next ten weeks, and also to attending ten straight weeks as we together study *The Meaning of Life*.

- 1. The author’s credibility** (*Ecclesiastes 1:1-3*).
Ecclesiastes is Greek for the Hebrew word “Qoheleth”, translated to English as “the Teacher” or “the Preacher”. He was King, and David’s son.
- 2. The scope** (*Ecclesiastes 1:4-18*).
In the cycle of life, nothing has changed, nothing is new and nothing is understood.
- 3. Under the sun** (*Ecclesiastes 1:3, 13, 14*).
When the clouds roll and block the sun, life is meaningless and hopeless.

Application

How can I best keep my eyes up above the clouds and on God, who then brings meaning to it all?

NEXT WEEK: Week 2/10 · *Ecclesiastes 2*
Acceptance of Life · Pastor Robb Williams

Growth Group Notes

THE MEANING OF LIFE

Use the following notes in your Growth Group or for further personal study of today’s message. We hope these will enrich and deepen your walk as you study God’s Word.

GETTING STARTED:

1. Have you ever questioned why you are here on this earth?

DIGGING DEEPER:

2. The author of Ecclesiastes reminds us nothing has changed in the cycle of life. What else do we learn from the book? (*Ecclesiastes 1:1-18*, particularly verses 9 and 17)
3. Without Christ in our life, life can feel meaningless, hopeless and dark. With Christ as our focus, life can be joyful and meaningful. (*Ecclesiastes 1:3, 13, 14; Psalm 16:11; 35:27*) What words describe *your* view of life?

APPLICATION:

4. How can you best keep your eyes up above the clouds and on God, who then brings meaning to it all? Bow your knees before the Father “that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may... know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” (*Ephesians 3:16-17, 19 ESV*)

Looking for the next step to build relationships? Be part of a Growth Group—the best way to develop significant, Christ-centered relationships at Verde! Contact Pastor Dave at david@verdebaptist.com.