

*How Can Our Lives Have Be Meaningful?
Significance of Our Life Events*



Ecclesiastes 2:12-3:15

Basic Outline

- 2:12-17 The futility of wisdom and the theme of death
- 2:18-23 Significance of our work and careers
- 2:24-26 Gifts from God
- 3:1-8 Time and the events of our lives
- 3:9-10 Significance of our work and careers
- 3:11-15 Gifts from God

Key Themes

- Death
- Eternity (time)
- Our life's events (time) are gifts from God to be enjoyed 2:24-26, 3:11-15
- Relationship with God

Ecclesiastes 2:12-17

Futility of Wisdom

- *Then I turned myself to consider wisdom and madness and folly; For what can the man do who succeeds the king?— Only what he has already done.*
- *Then I saw that wisdom excels folly As light excels darkness.*
- *The wise man's eyes are in his head, But the fool walks in darkness. Yet I myself perceived That the same event happens to them all.*
- *So I said in my heart, "As it happens to the fool, It also happens to me, And why was I then more wise?" Then I said in my heart, "This also is vanity."*
- *For there is no more remembrance of the wise than of the fool forever, Since all that now is will be forgotten in the days to come. And how does a wise man die? As the fool!*
- *Therefore I hated life because the work that was done under the sun was distressing to me, for all is vanity and grasping for the wind.*

Ecclesiastes 2:18-23

Significance of our Work and Careers

- *Then I hated all my labor in which I had toiled under the sun, because I must leave it to the man who will come after me.*
- *And who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will rule over all my labor in which I toiled and in which I have shown myself wise under the sun. This also is vanity.*
- *Therefore I turned my heart and despaired of all the labor in which I had toiled under the sun.*
- *For there is a man whose labor is with wisdom, knowledge, and skill; yet he must leave his heritage to a man who has not labored for it. This also is vanity and a great evil.*
- *For what has man for all his labor, and for the striving of his heart with which he has toiled under the sun?*
- *For all his days are sorrowful, and his work burdensome; even in the night his heart takes no rest. This also is vanity.*

Ecclesiastes 2:24-26

Gifts From God

- *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.*
- *For who can eat, or who can have enjoyment, more than I?*
- *For God gives wisdom and knowledge and joy to a man who is good in His sight; but to the sinner He gives the work of gathering and collecting, that he may give to him who is good before God. This also is vanity and grasping for the wind.*

Gifts From God To Christians

- *Salvation* - the knowledge that God forgave our sins, and as a result, we have access to him. This salvation is the most precious gift.
- *Hope* - that the trials and death that we face as believers ultimately have significance because of God.
- *Knowledge* - the spiritual understanding of scriptures that the Holy Spirit imparts in us as believers.
- *Love* - God's love works through us and is reflected back to him and others.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-7b

Time and Events of Our Lives

- *[1] To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven:*
- *[2a] A time to be born, And a time to die;*
- *[2b] A time to plant, And a time to pluck what is planted;*
- *[3a] A time to kill, And a time to heal;*
- *[3b] A time to break down, And a time to build up;*
- *[4a] A time to weep, And a time to laugh;*
- *[4b] A time to mourn, and a time to dance.*
- *[5a] A time to cast away stones, And a time to gather stones;*
- *[5b] A time to embrace, And a time to refrain from embracing;*
- *[6a] A time to gain, And a time to lose;*
- *[6b] A time to keep, And a time to throw away;*
- *[7a] A time to tear, And a time to sew;*
- *[7b] A time to keep silence, And a time to speak;*

Ecclesiastes 3:2a-8b

Time and Events of Our Lives

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- *[2b] A time to plant, And a time to pluck what is planted;*
- *[3a] A time to kill, And a time to heal;*
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- *[4a] A time to weep, And a time to laugh;*
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- *[7a] A time to tear, And a time to sew;*
- *[7b] A time to keep silence, And a time to speak;*
- *[8a] A time to love, And a time to hate;*
- *[8b] A time of war, And a time of peace.*

Ecclesiastes 3:9-10
Significance of our Work and Careers

- *What profit has the worker from that in which he labors?*
- *I have seen the God-given task with which the sons of men are to be occupied.*

Ecclesiastes 3:11-15

Gifts From God

- *[11] He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.*
- *[12] I know that nothing is better for them than to rejoice, and to do good in their lives,*
- *[13] and also that every man should eat and drink and enjoy the good of all his labor—it is the gift of God.*
- *[14] I know that whatever God does, It shall be forever. Nothing can be added to it, And nothing taken from it. God does it, that men should fear before Him.*
- *[15] That which is has already been, And what is to be has already been; And God requires an account of what is past.*

Quotes

- Eternity to the godly is a day that has no sunset; eternity to the wicked is a night that has no sunrise – Thomas Watson
- Since you can't control your life, you should stop trying. You only have control over one thing: your attitude towards the current moment. Enjoy both the good things and the bad because both are rich gifts from God. Life has meaning even when you can't make sense of it. – BibleProject.com

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Summary

- The pursuits for significance and joy can only be found in a relationship with God and with an eternal perspective.
- From an eternal perspective, the events and experiences in our lives have God-given purposes. They are gifts from God.
- If we let Him have his way, trusting that he is in control and is the author of the beginning and the end, our life becomes purposeful and enjoyable.