

November 15, 2020
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
Ecclesiastes: Ancient Wisdom Learned In 2020
Ep. 1 Everything is Meaningless
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Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

¹ The words of the Teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem: 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. ⁵ The sun rises and the sun sets, and hurries back to where it rises. ⁶ The wind blows to the south and turns to the north; round and round it goes, ever returning on its course. ⁷ All streams flow into the sea, yet the sea is never full. To the place the streams come from, there they return again. ⁸ All things are wearisome, more than one can say. **The eye never has enough of seeing, nor the ear its fill of hearing.** ⁹ **What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again there is nothing new under the sun.** ¹⁰ Is there anything of which one can say, “Look! This is something new” It was here already, long ago; it was here before our time. ¹¹ **No one remembers the former generations, and even those yet to come will not be remembered by those who follow them.**

Ecclesiastes Ancient Wisdom: Written by Solomon in 935 BC.¹

- Vs. 1 *The words of the Teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem.*

Solomon: The world’s most successful person.

- **Solomon had wisdom, riches, looks and talent.**

Wisdom: Solomon was the wisest person who ever existed or would exist.

- **Just Ask: 1 Kings 3:5** *At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, “Ask for whatever you want me to give you.”*
 - **Give me wisdom: Vs. 9** *“Give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?”*
 - Just because you have wisdom does not mean that you will follow it.
 - **Wisdom & Discernment: Vs. 11-12** *“Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for **discernment in administering justice**, ¹² I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be.”*
 - Justice without wisdom and discernment is tyranny. (A.W)²

ANCIENT WISDOM LEARNED IN 2020

1. **The meaning of life is not about having or accomplishing.** Vs. 2
2. **This world will never satisfy.** Vs. 8b
3. **There is nothing new and everything repeats itself.** Vs. 11

¹ <https://www.history.com/news/what-is-the-oldest-known-piece-of-literature>

² Ancient Wisdom

1. The meaning of life is not about having or accomplishing.

a. **Vs. 2** *“Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher. “Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.”*

i. If what you do is not tethered to eternal meaning, it has no ultimate meaning.

1. **Solomon’s Conclusion: Ecc 12:13** *Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind.*

a. **1 Corinthians 3:12-15** *If anyone builds on this foundation³ ¹³ their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person’s work. ¹⁴ If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.*

2. The world will never satisfy.

a. **Vs. 8** *The eye never has enough of seeing, nor the ear its fill of hearing.*

3. There is nothing new and everything repeats itself.

a. **Vs. 11** *No one remembers the former generations, and even those yet to come will not be remembered by those who follow them.*

Small Group Questions:

1. Solomon had everything he could have ever wanted, but in the end it all seemed meaningless. Do you believe if you get what you most desire that it will bring you contentment?
2. If God asked you to ask for whatever you wanted, what would you ask for? Why?
3. In Ecc. 12:13 Solomon concludes with telling his hearers that the only thing that will bring meaning to what you do is to do it for and with God. Is that how you live?
4. Are you currently content with where you are in life?
5. Share a time where you used wisdom in a specific life circumstance. Where did you get that wisdom from? (Wise counsel, life experience, the bible, Holy Spirit, etc)

³ using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw,