**How to Find Meaning in a Meaningless Life**

Greg Wendschlag July 7, 2019

Bible-First Lifestyle reading: Luke 10-24; Ecclesiastes 1-6; Amos 1-3

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

 *--* Solomon, Son of DavidEcc. 1:2

**“Under the Sun” Thinking is meaningless**

*“I denied myself nothing my eyes desired…Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.”* Ecc. 2:10-11

Everything changes yet nothing changes.

*“Generations come and generations go, but the earth remains forever.”* Ecc. 1:4

* **Pleasures** do not satisfy.
* **Projects** do not satisfy.
* **Position** does not satisfy.

Whether a wise person or a fool, everyone ends up in the same place.

*“For the wise man, like the fool, will not be long remembered; in days to come both will be forgotten. Like the fool, the wise man too must die!”* Ecc. 2:16

**Develop “Above the Sun” thinking**

*“Then I realized that it is good and proper for a person to eat and drink and to find satisfaction in their toilsome labor under the sun during the few days of life* ***God has given them****—for this is their lot.****19****Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and* ***the ability to enjoy them****, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil—****this is a gift of God. 20****They seldom reflect on the days of their life, because* ***God keeps them occupied with gladness of heart****.”* Ecc. 5:18-20

**A**ccept that there is **a time** for everything.

* **Timing** is important
* Everything is **beautiful** in its time

**R**emember to work for the **joy of the work** not the paycheck.

*“A person can do nothing better than to eat and drink and* ***find satisfaction in their work****. This too, I see, is from the hand of God.”* Ecc. 2:24-26

*“That every person may eat and drink, and* ***find satisfaction in all their toil*** *– this is the gift of God.”* Ecc. 3:11-14

*“Then I realized that it is good and proper for a person to eat and drink and to* ***find******satisfaction in their toilsome labor****under the sun…this is the gift of God.” Ecc. 5:8-20*

**T**ake time to **develop relationships.**

*“Again I saw something meaningless under the sun: There was a man all alone; he had neither son nor brother…two are better than one….A cord of three strands is not easily broken.”* Ecc. 4:7-12

* Friends make the **work easier** and more profitable
* Friends **pick you up** when you are down
* Friends provide **comfort**
* Friends **defend** each other

One final thought: God has placed eternity in your heart to give you **HOPE!** Hope is the cure for the meaningless life!