

MESSAGE NOTES | FEBRUARY 3 2019



Ecclesiastes
Roger Ellis, Lead Pastor
CBE: p. 271-291 | NIV: p. 461-467

While we recognize the practical truths of individual statements, what is the Teacher really trying to say?

- "Everything is meaningless" 1:1-11 (p. 271-272)
- "Under the sun"
- Death confirms the meaninglessness of life

It appears that the goal of the writer is that you will find yourself so

dissatisfied with life that you will begin to search for what really brings ***meaning*** to life.

Our frustration is this: *We know deep within ourselves that life is to **have meaning**, but we also know that we cannot **discover what it is!*** [3:9-12 (p.274); 7:14 (p.280); 8:17 (p.283) & 11:5 (p.286)]

So after examining life from every angle, turning it over and over in our hands, even taking it to the extreme, we end with the same **verdict** as the writer (1:2)

Then how are we supposed to live our lives in light of this verdict?

THE ONE THING: ***Fear God & obey Him***

(Classical Evangelical Essays in Old Testament Interpretation, edited by Walter Kaiser, Baker Book House, 1972; pp. 133-150)

Miss something? Completed sermon notes are available online. Binders to organize your sermon notes are available at the upstairs Welcome Desk.

NEXT STEPS

- Memorize Ecclesiastes 12:13-14.
- Do the CBE readings for this week and interact with others to establish you in your faith.
- Let today's news topics help you engage others with the Good News.
- Enter the book giveaway.



This week, we switch types of literature (genres) and move to the book of Proverbs. It's a collection of compact, memorable sayings that reflect the experience of living in God's orderly world and are expressed as proverbs, parables, sayings and riddles. The focus is on "the fear (reverence/awe) of the Lord." We'll then dive into Ecclesiastes, reading a series of individual reflections and conclusions about life from the point of the Teacher, alternating between poetry and prose, demonstrating a "crookedness" that has come into this good world.

Enjoy the journey!

Source: "Invitation to Proverbs," p. 209; "Invitation to Ecclesiastes," p. 269-270.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Think of your weekly discussion group as more of a book club than a Bible study. All you have to do is share your responses to five simple questions:

1. What's something you noticed **for the first time**?
2. What **questions** did you have?
3. Was there anything that **bothered** you?
4. What did you learn about **loving God**?
5. What did you learn about **loving others**?

WORSHIP LYRICS

If you'd like to spend more time with the lyrics from any of the songs this morning, please click on the song title below to continue worshipping.

[The King is Here](#)

[O Come to the Altar](#)

[What a Beautiful Name](#)

[My Victory](#)

[In Christ Alone](#)

[Yet, Not I But Through Christ in Me](#)

[Forever \(We Sing Hallelujah\)](#)