

# LIFE: MADNESS OR MEANINGFUL

ECCLESIASTES 1:12-2:26

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- Could the pursuit of WISDOM and KNOWLEDGE give life meaning?
- Could physical POSSESSIONS and pleasurable INDULGENCE give life meaning?
- Could striving to live SENSIBLY and GOOD give life meaning?
- Could HARD WORK give this life meaning and reward us ETERNALLY?

# FURTHER UP, FURTHER IN

1. As you look back on Chapter 1 and 2 of Ecclesiastes can you see any value in this being in the Bible? Why?
2. In Ecc. 1: 12 – 18 the preacher describes his quest. What is his quest? Do you believe he is qualified to take it on? (1 Kings 3:4 – 14). What does, “under the sun” mean? What are his final findings?
3. What does the preacher mean by “What is crooked cannot be made straight, and what is lacking cannot be counted”? (1:15) Can you apply this to something you have experienced in life?
4. Read Ecc. 2:1 – 11. What are the self-indulgences the preacher tries in order to find meaning? What were his conclusions? How does this relate today in our world? Do you believe these conclusions to be accurate or are they overly cynical?
5. Read Ecc. 2:12 – 17. What is his quest in these verses? Why would his response to this quest be so harsh that he would say he hated life?
6. Read Ecc. 2:18 – 26. Why does he feel despair in this work? Is this how you feel about work? Why or why not? Is it possible to enjoy our work and our life?
7. The statement was made Sunday that, “disappointment with life is because we have taken good things and made them ultimate things when in actuality they are God-given things. Do you agree with that statement? What can we do as Christians to see worldly treasures as God’s gifts rather than the goal of our pursuit?
8. When God sent His Son Jesus into the world, He dropped hope directly into the horizontal meaningless life. Why does belief in Jesus change your perspective on your quest for meaning?



LIVING LIFE  
BACKWARD

“I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it till now. . . . Come further up, come further in!” — C.S. Lewis, The Last Battle