



CHRIST'S CHURCH

LIFE LESSONS

—FROM—

ECCLESIASTES

**GLORIFYING GOD BY LEADING PEOPLE TO BECOME
FULLY DEVOTED FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST**

this book
belongs to:

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- *How do you know what is true?*

- *How do you know what is good?*

- *How does truth relate to how you feel?*

Read Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

- *Is the method in which this passage describes the best way to discover truth? Why or Why not?*

- *In what ways do you relate to the statements in this section of scripture?*

- *Do you know others who are following in this method? If so, who? How can you incorporate them into your daily rhythm of praying?*

We get this confused! Our current culture likes to think with feelings. We over-emphasize personal feelings and emotions when it comes to our understanding of truth. However, feelings change, and everyone has different feelings. If truth is based on our feelings, there is no standard of truth. Truth cannot equal how you feel.

MEDITATE

Read Mark 8:34-38; Matthew 6:19-21

- *What desires of your heart are pleasing your flesh rather than God's will?*

- *Can we serve both God and man?*

Read Matthew 13:44-45

- *Jesus tells us that the Kingdom is worth giving up everything. Do you believe that? Why or why not?*

- *What does it look like to give up everything in order to gain the kingdom?*

- *Do your current pursuits bring you closer into a relationship with Christ and living in His Kingdom, or living and building your kingdom?*

- *What is standing in your way of pursuing the kingdom of God fully?*

The kingdom of heaven is something worth losing everything for. We joyfully let go of all things in order to passionately take hold of one thing. – David Platt

ACTION

This week pick one area of your life that you identified as “chasing after the wind.” Refocus the time and resources spent in the pursuit of that desire and spend that time pursuing God’s kingdom. Here are some areas of life that we typically spend a lot of time and resources on:

Personal Entertainment:

Movies, Shopping, Video Games, TV, Etc.

Travel:

Vacations, Outings, Sports, Etc.

Conveniences:

Coffee, Eating Out, Social Media, Internet, Etc.

Other:

- *What does it tangibly look like to reallocate resources to invest in God’s kingdom? How can those activities become gospel-centered?*

CELEBRATE

God has invited us into his family and to live in relationship with him. Following Christ is the only true success that brings true joy, hope, and purpose to our lives. Write out your prayer of thanksgiving to God for how he has blessed you and the hope to which you have been called to (Ephesians 1:18).

ACTION

God's redemptive plan is for all people. God calls all of us into a growing relationship with His Son Jesus. Focusing on Christ in every area of our lives is the key to finding and living with purpose and contentment. Contentment comes through a life of faith and obedience.

Spend some time today looking for where God is working around you.

- *Be intentional about joining in with him on his mission wherever that is or however you see it.*

- *Be intentional today pray that God will guide and direct you for success in Him.*

Reflect on your experience and reflect how your interaction with others went.

COMMUNITY

Today is the day to serve! Pray that God will lead you to serve someone in need. Whether it is a local food pantry, an older adult that needs small jobs done, or a local school try to serve in your neighborhood or with someone who you have a relationship.

CALIBRATE

Take what you have learned this week and apply it to your normal, everyday life. Remember that success only truly comes from a close relationship with God the Father. Worldly success will not bring true joy or contentment.

Reflect and note the truths in these scriptures:

1 Kings 2:3

Proverbs 3:1-4

John 14:15

CELEBRATE

Success that is lasting is found in a relationship with God the father. As we follow Christ and lean into a relationship with him, we find that we will be blessed in ways we have never thought were possible.

Celebrate today with a meal.

Have everyone step out of their box and bring something that they have never made before. Get used to being out of the box!

CELEBRATE

God has sent certain people into our lives for a specific purpose. He also has placed us in the lives of others to help and love each other. Life is better together! The relationships that are centered upon Christ are richer and fuller than relationships void of God.

- *List your friends that have helped you, or you would ask for help?*

- *List friends who you are helping, or you are being led to help?*

Close your time in prayer thanking God for the people he has put in your life. Pray for those who need help and ask God what your part in helping them should be.

MEDITATE

As you read the following scriptures, pray and seek out how God wants you to prioritize your life and where the meaningless struggle for more and more may be interfering with those priorities.

Matthew 6:21

Matthew 6:24

Luke 3:14

Luke 12:15-21

Acts 8:20

1 Timothy 6:9-10 17-19

Hebrew 13:5

ACTION

God's desire is for us to be redeemed and restored through a relationship with him. Write down a time in your life where your "quest for more" has interfered with your relationship with God and experiencing his love, redemption, and restoration.

The desire and pursuit of more is often a very real and continual struggle. Today, write a prayer of thanksgiving for the blessings God has filled your life with. Pray that through forgiveness you can continue to be restored and redeemed from the desires of your heart for "more." Pray that your desires for more will not interfere with being a fully devoted follower of Jesus.

COMMUNITY

This week as a life group, discuss how “the quest for more money” has interfered with your relationship with Christ.

- *Does someone have a specific example where their desire for “more” was in direct conflict with their relationship with Christ?*
- *Can we think of times where someone else’s desire for “more” created a wedge in our relationships?*
- *How can we encourage others to feel fulfilled by God’s promises?*

CELEBRATE

This is what I have observed to be good: that it is appropriate for a person to eat, to 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. -Ecclesiastes 5:18

- *How has God provided for you?*

Be satisfied with the gifts God has given to you bless others and glorify Him!

As we celebrate how God richly provides for all of our needs, let us reflect on how we might be able to share these blessings with others for the glory to God!

MEDITATE

Read: Ecclesiastes 9:1-12; 11:7-12:14

We all have the same destiny on earth, and that is death. The “evil in everything under the sun” in Ecclesiastes 9:3 is referring to sin that has caused death on this earth. But we have “hope among the living” with God our father. If we live among the dead and live for ourselves, our lives will end with our bodies on this earth. Having a relationship with God our father can give us eternal life.

Read Ephesians 1:3-19

- *What are some truths that you need to be reminded of this week from God’s word?*

CALIBRATE

It is so easy to live for the “here and now” and only view God as dealing with our eternity. However, we are called to obey God now because of his love and grace through Jesus.

- *What can you do today to follow Gods plan?*

Write down 2-5 scriptures that are either currently or will be a foundation for you. Write them down so that you can memorize, recall, and meditate on them in the coming days.

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CELEBRATE

Our life doesn't have to be "MEANINGLESS! MEANINGLESS!" God has provided us with his word to guide us in having a relationship with him.

He gave up his only son to pay the ultimate price for our sin.

Celebrate that God has given us this opportunity to live eternity with him.

Write down a few areas where God has given you purpose and hope. Then pray a prayer of thanksgiving for those.

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