

OUTLINE 08/30/26
Chasing Meaning
Ecclesiastes 11-12 (NLT)

In the book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon teaches that I will not find meaning in life through education, pleasure, work, money or possessions. If I rearrange my priorities and find meaning in my relationship with God and His purposes, then I will get much more out of life.

HOW TO GAIN MEANING IN LIFE

1. Enjoy life but know that I am responsible for my actions.

⁹...Enjoy every minute of it. Do everything you want to do; take it all in. But remember that you must give an account to God for everything you do. Ecclesiastes 11:9

¹⁴God will judge us for everything we do, including every secret thing, whether good or bad.
Ecclesiastes 12:14

2. Do the right things now.

⁴*If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done.* Ecclesiastes 11:4

¹*Don't let the excitement of youth cause you to forget your Creator. Honor him in your youth before you grow old and no longer enjoy living.* Ecclesiastes 12:1

HOW CAN I DO THE RIGHT THINGS NOW?

1. Evaluate what is really important.

⁶...Don't wait until the water jar is smashed at the spring and the pulley is broken at the well. ⁷For then the dust will return to the earth, and the spirit will return to God who gave it. Ecclesiastes 12:6-7

2. Be ready for competition to life's real priorities.

¹²*But, my child, be warned: There is no end of opinions ready to be expressed. Studying them can go on forever and become very exhausting!* Ecclesiastes 12:12

3. Schedule and live my priorities.

⁴*Remember him before the door to life's opportunities is closed...* Ecclesiastes 12:4

4. Honor God and live for Him.

¹³*That's the whole story. Here now is my final conclusion: Fear God and obey his commands, for this is everyone's duty.* ¹⁴God will judge us for everything we do, including every secret thing, whether good or bad.
Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

JOIN US NEXT WEEK FOR OUR NEW SERIES:
CHRIST ALONE – THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS

How to Receive Christ:

"Dear Jesus, thank You for loving me even though I'm a sinner. I ask for your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sin and that You rose from the dead. I trust You as my Savior and follow You as Lord, from this day forward. Amen."

Discussion Questions:

1. How can we live responsibly knowing God will judge us one day?
2. How can we learn to have the right priorities?
3. How can we honor God and live for Him?