

THE SEARCH FOR MEANING
ECC. 12:8-14 / 3:19-17 AM

I. FIRST, HE RESTATES THE THEME OF ECCLESIASTES.

- A. He initially revealed the theme in 1:2.
- B. Now at the close of this book he restates it--12:8.
- C. What does he mean by saying everything is meaningless?
 - 1. First, he means the “things” of this world.
 - a. Pleasure is meaningless--Ecc. 2:1.
 - b. Personal accomplishment is meaningless--Ecc. 2:4 and 2:11.
 - c. Human wisdom and learning is meaningless--Ecc. 2:15b.
 - d. Money and the things money can buy are meaningless--Ecc. 5:10.
 - 2. Second, Solomon means living a life apart from God is meaningless--Mark 8:36.
 - 3. On the other hand, if we have personal relationship with God life has great meaning--John 10:10.

II. SECOND, SOLOMON STATES HIS INTENTIONS FOR THE FUTURE.

- A. First, he will continue to share with others what he has learned--9a.
- B. Second, he will continue to learn himself--9b.

III. FINALLY, SOLOMON SHARES THE MEANING OF LIFE HE HAS FOUND.

- A. The meaning of life, according to Solomon, is twofold--Ecclesiastes 12:13.
- B. What does Solomon mean?
 - 1. What does it mean to “fear God?”
 - a. It doesn't mean to cringe or run from God.
 - b. Rather it means to honor God and be awed by Him.

- c. Further, it means to revere God rather than to fear Him.
 - d. In another of Solomon's writings he states it's importance--
Proverbs 1:7.
2. What does it mean to keep God's commandments?
- a. It means to live life God's way, not our own way.
 - b. It's proof that we really know God--1 John 2:3-4.
 - c. It also demonstrates that we love God--1 John 5:3.
 - d. It also demonstrates that we love God's Son--John 14:15.