

- All in Jesus
- Scripture does not talk about who who have found God but those who walk with God.

- Is life really worth living?
 - The best thing to do is to enjoy the blessings of God today (Matthew 6:25ff)
 - Fear God
 - Keep his Word
 - For our labor in the Lord is not in vain (1 Cor. 15:58)

- Chapter 1 The theme is laid out
- 2-3: God's purpose for life—take life day by day from God and glorify him in ordinary things
- 4-5: God gives riches according to his will—quietness of Spirit is to be sought, there is blessing in friendship, be content with what God gives
- 7-10: God's wisdom can guide us through life—practical wisdom involves the fear of God and is the guide for life. Since death is universal, use life energetically while its power remains.
- 11-12: Live by faith, remember life will end, fear God, obey him.

- 1-2: The problem declared
 - Man is only a cog in a big wheel—all is vapor—man dies (1:4-11)
 - Man cannot understand it all (1:12-18)
 - Man's pleasures do not satisfy (2:1-11)
 - Death ends all (2:12-23)
- 3-10: The problem discussed
 - God has a purpose in our lives (3)
 - God gives riches according to his will (4-6)
 - God's wisdom can guide us through life (7-10)
- 11-12: The problem decided
 - Live by faith (11:1-6)
 - Remember that life will end (11:7-12:7)
 - Fear God and obey Him (12:8-14)

- All in Jesus
- Evangelistic Book
- Suffering
 - Monistic view—deny it
 - Stoic—endure it
 - Dualism—forgive God for it—(battle good and evil)
 - Existentialism—defies it—(world cruel but I will be good—problem how know justice and compassion)
 - Hedonist—avoid it—live for pleasure
 - Romanist—good begets good lives—bad bad lives—-so live good and great rewarded
 - Political-Blame it
 - Masochistic—welcome it—unless suffer not worthwhile
- Problem—all deny God—
 - God is all powerful judge of history
 - wise loving weaver of history
 - —we not see the beginning or the end—suffering tests us, refines us, strengthens us (Tim Keller)

- If believe life all there is—no reason for values—
- Fear God—God so huge/glorious/wonderful—bow to his greatness—get mind off of selves
- God put eternity in our hearts—why we are bothered

(Tim Keller)

- Eugene Peterson: Ecclesiastes doesn't say that much about God; the author leaves that to the other sixty-five books of the Bible. His task is to expose our total incapacity to find meaning and completion of our lives on our own (not find in intellectualism, hedonism, or materialism)
- FOMO—fear of missing out—1 Cor 7:17-35—Where you are right now is where God has placed you.
- Keys to thriving amidst toil—work, relationships (synergy, mutual support, physical and spiritual support)
- Knowledge is, on the whole good. The facts are your friends. Education is good. However, as Lord Byron wrote, 'The Tree of Knowledge is not that of Life' We need to see 'knowledge' in perspective. Our knowledge is very limited. The more we know, the more we realize how little we know. God is our creator and he alone knows everything.
- Limits of wisdom and knowledge—we cannot really discover anything about the future, and being over wise can lead to a form of pride. We do not know when our death will come, we are not going to make sense of life.
- So.. we should enjoy life and make the most of our time here. Seize Life...God takes pleasure in your pleasure. Relish life every day. Each day is God's gift. Whatever you find to do, do it with all your might. Don't waste your life, make the most of every opportunity.
- Be an influence for good—watch your words, take risks (be generous, invest in charities), spread your efforts (press ahead on all fronts make the most of every opportunity), take your opportunities (life is short-don't waste time worrying)
- The meaning of life ultimately rests in your relationship with God. Revere him and keep his commandments. This is the whole duty for every person

(Nicky Gumbel)

Romans 8:20–25 (NIV)

²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Colossians 3:17 (NIV)

¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

1 Corinthians 10:31 (NIV)

³¹ So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

- Do we live lives for what we cannot keep or do we go to God for what cannot be taken away?
- Godlessness is not a victimless crime—if not live for God you will turn in on self and turn against God and neighbor
- Wisdom comes from one shepherd—we have a shepherd who knows where the good pasture is—out of love he wants us to follow him into the good pasture—Jesus is the logos—the meaning—the wisdom of God—come into the world—to be full human is to hear the shepherd and respond to his voice—to live for God

(All-Souls)

- Interesting nothing about call to self sacrifice
- Contrasting self-centered life with a God centered life
- Nothing about the law
- Recognize limitations vs. be against
- Warns of self-indulgence and oppression
- Accountability to God
- Be God centered vs. frustrated with unanswered questions
- Uses Elohim vs. Yahweh
- See everything from the hand of God—ask question—ok—how do you want me to respond to this