

## ***Does Life Have A Purpose?***

***Ecclesiastes 2:1-11; Matthew 6:25-34***

Explore God, Pt.1

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### **Life's Three Great Questions:**

#### **1. Question Of Existence: Why Am I ALIVE?**

**Jeremiah 20:18**, *Why did I ever come out of the womb to see trouble and sorrow and to end my days in shame?*

#### **2. Question Of Significance: Does My Life MATTER?**

**Psalms 139:16**, *Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in Your book before one of them came to be.*

#### **3. Question Of Intention: What Is My PURPOSE?**

##### **King Solomon's Futile Search For Purpose In Life:**

**Ecclesiastes 2:1**, *I said to myself, "Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good." But that also proved to be meaningless. <sup>2</sup>"Laughter," I said, "is madness. And what does pleasure accomplish?" <sup>3</sup>I tried cheering myself with wine, and embracing folly—my mind still guiding me with wisdom. I wanted to see what was good for people to do under the heavens during the few days of their lives. <sup>4</sup>I undertook great projects: I built houses for myself and planted vineyards. <sup>5</sup>I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them. <sup>6</sup>I made reservoirs to water groves of flourishing trees. <sup>7</sup>I bought male and female slaves and had other slaves who were born in my house. I also owned more herds and flocks than anyone in Jerusalem before me. <sup>8</sup>I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I acquired male and female singers, and a harem as well—the delights of a man's heart. <sup>9</sup>I became greater by far than anyone in Jerusalem before me. In all this my wisdom stayed with me. <sup>10</sup>I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure. My heart took delight in all my labor, and this was the reward for all my toil. <sup>11</sup>Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun.*

- **What Was The Outcome Of Solomon's Search For Meaning? He Came Up Empty!**

**QUOTE:** "What is life for? To die? To kill myself? No, I'm afraid of death. To wait for death till it comes? I fear

that even more. Then I must live. But what for, in order to die?” —Leo Tolstoy

- **Why Did Solomon Come Up Empty?** *Because everything he did was about “I,” “My,” “Me,” or “Myself.”*
- **Solomon’s Conclusion:** *Life is MEANINGLESS without God, but God gives everything MEANING.*

#### **Jesus’ Prescription For True Meaning And Purpose:**

**Matthew 6:25**, “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? <sup>26</sup>Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? <sup>27</sup>Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? <sup>28</sup>“And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. <sup>29</sup>Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. <sup>30</sup>If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? <sup>31</sup>So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ <sup>32</sup>For

*the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. <sup>33</sup>But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. <sup>34</sup>Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*

**QUOTE:** C. S. Lewis put it this way: “All that we call human history—money, poverty, ambition, war, prostitution, classes, empires, slavery—is the long terrible story of man trying to find something other than God which will make him happy... The reason why it can never succeed is this. God made us: invented us as a man invents an engine. A car is made to run on petrol, and it would not run properly on anything else. Now God designed the human machine to run on Himself. He Himself is the fuel our spirits were designed to burn, or the food our spirits were designed to feed on. There is no other.”

#### **Take Away:**

1. Real purpose in life only comes from seeking and knowing God!
2. Everything in life is meaningless without God, but God gives everything meaning.
3. Invite someone to join you for Explore God next week as we ask and answer the question, “Is There A God?”

