



“Meaningless! Meaningless!”

Ecclesiastes 1

LISTEN

Record your insights and observations from this week’s sermon:

SHARE

Have you seen any movies that illustrate the frustration or emptiness of life? What answers, if any, did those movies provide?

REFLECT

- a) Read Ecclesiastes 1.

- b) Take a few minutes to recall from Mike’s sermon some basic facts about the book of Ecclesiastes. For example, who may have been its author? How did the author refer to himself? What is the book’s theme? What appears to be its purpose? Why is it in the Bible?

- c) Ecclesiastes 1:2 puts forth the theme of the book. What words besides “meaningless” express what the Preacher is communicating about life? In what sense does he mean everything is meaningless?

d) When the Preacher refers to life “under the sun” (vss. 3, 9, 14), what is he talking about?

e) What illustrations from nature does the author use in vss. 4-7 to back up his statement that life under the sun is frustrating?

f) We live in an age of seemingly constant change and innovation. So how can vss. 9-10 possibly be true?

g) What was the result of the Preacher’s search for wisdom, according to vss. 12-18?

APPLY

a) Have you personally experienced the meaninglessness of life? If so, in what specific way(s)?

b) Ecclesiastes, like the red pill in the movie *The Matrix*, confronts us with the bitter truth that this world is terribly devastated and broken. In that sense the book is a corrective to the view that says you can find ultimate fulfillment in this world. However, once you’ve made that discovery, what’s to keep you from utter despair?

c) How might you use the book of Ecclesiastes in evangelism?

PRAY

a) Pray for our study of the book of Ecclesiastes, that it will change lives and point people to Jesus Christ.

b) Ask God to give the people of UPC a realistic, yet hopeful, view of daily life.

c) Pray for our high school students who are at camp Elevate at Covenant College this week.