

WHAT IS THE POINT?

Ecclesiastes 2.1-26 // May 5, 2019

CHASING AFTER THE WIND

The Preacher has had it all. Pleasure, laughter, money, nature, relationships, art, hard work, you name it. And yet, it is empty.

**A dog has a better chance of catching his own tail
than you and I have chasing after the wind.**

BUT DEATH...

The Preacher acknowledges that living a life of wisdom has more gain than a life of folly, yet he sees something that takes the vain wind out of his sails. Regardless of wise or foolish you are, everyone dies.

**Living a wise and moral life will save you,
No more than living a foolish and immoral life.**

Therefore, the Preacher says, he “hated life.” It all just seems to have no point. And he goes on to point out, then, the best approach.

GIFT, NOT GAIN

Most things we partake in we make them a means to an end:

- We work to make a good home and future for ourselves. To build our resume and reputation, and find satisfaction in life.
- We pursue relationships to fill a hole of emptiness and to realize a perceived basic right we have to have companionship.
- Pleasure, laughter, and hobby are pursued to give us meaning, joy, and reward as we “work for the weekend.”
- Even food is a means to fuel us, give us energy, and keep us alive.

But what if these aren’t meant to be a means to an end? What if they are just simply supposed to be what they are: gifts. Gifts that we don’t deserve.

When did God promise, or command us, to find a job that gives us satisfaction and fulfillment? And if we don’t, we aren’t getting what we deserve and should aim for more? If food is just meant for fuel, why didn’t God just make us solar powered? Why did He give us taste buds and all sorts of flavors to taste?

Are we missing something? The Preacher recognizes that pursuing all these things as a means to an end, *specifically* a means to an end that they were not designed to be, is ultimately like chasing the wind. Rather, we ought to simply enjoy them as undeserved gifts of God. This releases us from the bitterness of unmet expectations, idolatry, and hopelessness.

NOTES:

This Week’s Scripture to Memorize:

Romans 5:1

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

ARE YOU NEW HERE?

WELCOME TO LIFE MISSION!

We’d love for you to **fill out a Connection Card** so we can welcome you and answer any questions you may have. You can drop it in the offering basket during the service or take it to one of our teammates at the **Connection Booth** outside. Feel free to grab some coffee and snacks in the courtyard and hang out. We hope you’ll **join us next Sunday** and consider making us your church family.

WHAT ABOUT THE KIDS?

Our childrens’ ministry, which we call **Kids on Mission**, has classes for **newborns - 5th grade**. We have a great team of volunteers who have all been screened with background checks for extra security. Each week your child will get to **worship** with their class, followed by an **age-appropriate lesson** that points them towards Jesus and helps root them in the Word of God.

Visit our website to read more about the vision of Kids on Mission and a walkthrough of our curriculum. If you have any questions, email **Amber Willis at amber@lifemission.tv**

JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL

Our **6th - 8th graders** begin each Sunday by **worshiping with the adults** and then head to their classroom with their teacher and classmates for the rest of service. Visit our website to read more about our junior high ministry and a walkthrough of our curriculum.

Our **9th-12th graders stay in the service** with the adults because we believe that it is crucial for them to not “graduate the faith” when they graduate high school.

For more information about our Junior High & High School ministries, email **Tyler Willis at tyler@lifemission.tv**.

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COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Before group starts, who can share the **Memory Verse**?

Read Ecclesiastes 2.1-26. What stands out in this passage, and what stuck out to you most from the sermon on Sunday?

Preaching the Gospel to Yourself

Again, the Preacher seems like he wants us to preach the bad news to ourselves. Read his observation in 2.24-26. How does this insight remind us of the Good News that God has done for us?

Repent and Ask for Provision

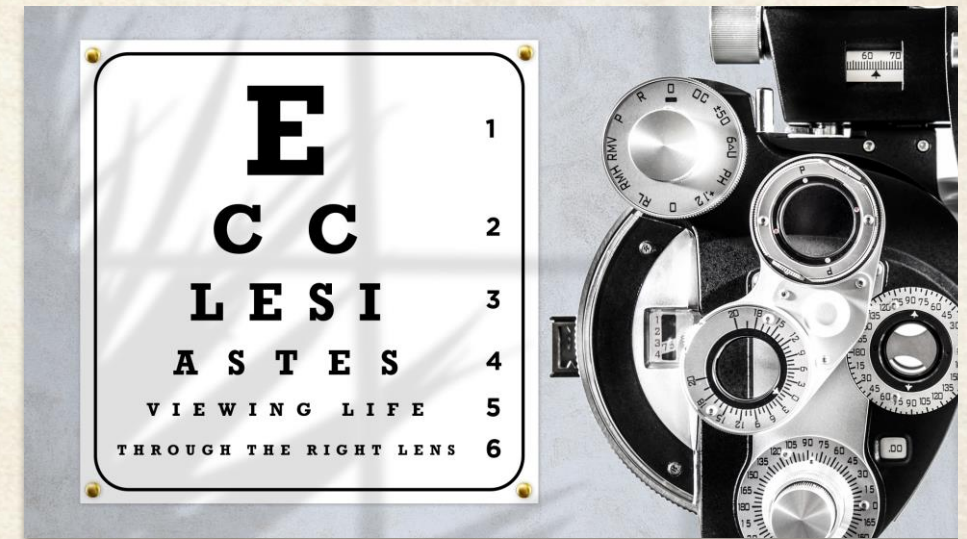
What gifts of God have you turned into things that you feel you need to gain? How has changing them from gifts to gain affected your expectations from these things (or people), and how has it affected your expectations from God?

Your Life Mission

The Preacher doesn't mean to say that everything is just simply a gift to enjoy with no other purpose, but that these gifts are intended to be used for the purpose that the Gift Giver intended them to be. One purpose can be given to every gift of God, and that is that we are to use *everything* God gives us to glorify Him.

What parts of your life has God given you as a gift that might invite conversations or social settings with non-believers that you could use prayer for? How can your group be praying for the people in your life that you love and care for?

End the evening in a time of prayer, praying through the theme of the night using the **P.R.A.Y.** model with your group. Pray for these people you have mentioned and for your heart and plan as you pursue them in love. Make sure to end your time of prayer **Yielding with Thanksgiving** for God's sovereignty and plan for your life.



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SUNDAYS AT 10AM

Life Mission Church Meets at Classical Academy High School
207 E Pennsylvania Ave, Escondido 92025

GET TO KNOW MORE ABOUT US ONLINE

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