

EASTER @ db 2016!

desert breeze
community church



Saturday & Sunday, March 26/27, 2016 Ray Davis

Recovering AWE – “Meaning”

“If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world.”—C.S. Lewis

“You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.”—St. Augustine (Confessions)

Christianity gives us a meaning in life that the worst suffering in this world can't take and the greatest success in this world can't give.

Ecclesiastes 1:1-18

Why Is Meaning In Life Important?

V3 “What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun?”

“Gain” (10xs) = Heb. Profit—what is the permanent value left after you've done everything? What is the end, purpose or significance of life?

- Everyone has to live for something.
- That something must be able to endure suffering & death.
- We must think it out to its furthest possible implications.

Is There Meaning In Life Apart From God?

V2 Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

V3 “What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun?”

“Under the sun” (29xs) = apart from God.

“Vanity” (38xs) = vapor, breath, meaningless, a waste of time that quickly passes.

Three answers to that question that he destroys:

- ✓ Humanism – Make the world a better place. Vv4, 11, 15
- ✓ Hedonism – It's all about pleasure. v8
- ✓ Existentialism – Be courageous & moral in the face of suffering & death. Value is created by one's choice. v17

If our origin is insignificant and our destiny is insignificant then everything in between is insignificant.

What Is The Indestructible Meaning In Life Christianity Gives?

John 1:1, 14 1 In the beginning was the Word, & the Word was with God, & the Word was God. 14 the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, & we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace & truth.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

- All human problems are symptoms, and our separation from God is the cause. V15; Rom3:23, 6:23
- The meaning of life is a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Jn10:10b; 14:6; 17:3
- By grace through faith in Christ...
 - ✓ My bad things will work out for my good (Rom8:28; Gen50:20).
 - ✓ My good things can never be taken from me (Rom8:1, 31-39).
 - ✓ My best things are yet to come (Rom8:18; John11:25-26).

“We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us...*we are far too easily pleased.*”—C.S. Lewis

Growing Notes

- 1) What do you think the average American would say is the meaning of life? What does the average American's lifestyle portray?
- 2) Read Ecclesiastes 1:1-18. Who is the writer and what is his background (vv1, 12) (1 Kings 2:1-3, 1 Kings 4)? What is his quest and qualifications (vv13, 16)? What is the theme of this book (vv2-3)?
- 3) Why is meaning in life important (v3)? What does it mean that everyone has to live for something? Whatever we live for must be able to endure suffering and death. Explain. Can you have meaning in life apart from God (vv2-3)? Explain.
- 4) John is an eye witness of the Resurrected Christ Jesus! Who does he say is the logos (logic or meaning) of life (John1:1, 14 “word” = Gr. Logos)? Why did Jesus come (John3:16)? What is the meaning of life (Jn10:10b; 14:6; 17:3)? By grace through faith in Christ we receive what three things that are part of our indestructible meaning in life? Spend some time reflecting and rejoicing in your identity in Christ.