



GETTING THE MOST OUT OF THE MIST
IS LIFE REALLY MEANINGLESS?
ECCLESIASTES 1:1-11

Ben Blakey - Compass Bible Church - January 9, 2022

1. Accept _____

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Ecclesiastes 1:1–11 (ESV)

1 The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.

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

3 What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun?

4 A generation goes, and a generation comes, but the earth remains forever.

5 The sun rises, and the sun goes down, and hastens to the place where it rises.

6 The wind blows to the south and goes around to the north; around and around goes the wind, and on its circuits the wind returns.

7 All streams run to the sea, but the sea is not full; to the place where the streams flow, there they flow again.

8 All things are full of weariness; a man cannot utter it; the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing.

9 What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun.

10 Is there a thing of which it is said, "See, this is new"? It has been already in the ages before us.

11 There is no remembrance of former things, nor will there be any remembrance of later things yet to be among those who come after.

2. Remember _____

3. Learn _____

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. As you think through Ecclesiastes 1:1-11 and the brutally honest picture it presents of life in this world, how could accepting these realities actually benefit your life? What are some of the wrong ways people might try to apply these realities to their own lives?

2. What are some of the ways you might be tempted to pretend these realities aren't true, and how could that negatively affect your life?

3. **Read Ecclesiastes 1:3 & Matthew 6:19-21.** What are some ways you might be tempted to put too much focus on the material things in this world? Why is it helpful to be reminded of how fleeting those things are?

4. **Read Ecclesiastes 1:10.** What are some of the negative effects that always chasing something "new" can have? How might you be tempted to think this way?

5. **Read 1 Corinthians 15:58.** Even though the Preacher in Ecclesiastes cries out that "All is vanity!", how is it encouraging to know that your service to God will NOT be in vain?

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Here are some books which may help you dig deeper into what we studied today. While Pastor Ben cannot endorse everything about each book/author, he does think these books are worth considering and reading.

Gibson, David. *Living Life Backward*. Crossway, 2017.

Wiersbe, Warren. *Be Satisfied*. Victor Books, 1990.

Wilson, Douglas. *Joy at the End of the Tether*. Canon Press, 1999.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray that God would teach us and change our lives as we study Ecclesiastes.

Pray that God would keep us from chasing fulfillment in the emptiness of this world.

Pray that we would live life in light of the reality of God and eternity.

Pray that our kids ministry would have all the volunteers that it needs and that our children would be greatly impacted by the truths of God's Word.

Pray that God will provide a long-term home for CBCTV through the Taking Ground project.

REVIVAL FROM THE BIBLE READING

Date	Old Testament	New Testament
1/10	Job 15-17	Matthew 2, Luke 2:40-52,
1/11	Job 18-21	Matthew 3:1-10, Mark 1:1-6, Luke 3:1-14
1/12	Job 22-24	Matthew 3:11-17, Mark 1:7-11, Luke 3:15-23
1/13	Job 25-28	Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 1:12-13, Luke 4:1-13
1/14	Job 29-31	John 1:19-51
1/15	Job 32-34	John 2