

**FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION**  
**ECCLESIASTES: Wisdom for Life**  
**Ecclesiastes 1:1-11 - The Search for Meaning - 02.08.2026**

1. Is there anything specific from this message that the Lord has impressed upon your heart?  
If so, what is it & how do you feel the Lord calling you to respond?
  
2. This was our opening sermon in this series through the book of Ecclesiastes and I shared the following purpose of the book:  
*"To show the only way to be satisfied in life: living cognizant of & submitted to the Lord."*  
Read Ecclesiastes 1:1-11 as well as Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; how do these verses relate to the purpose outlined above?
  
3. At the top of the message I shared the following as the reason "Why we're going through Ecclesiastes at this time."  
*"To gain perspective & lead us into joy as we seek the fullness of life that is in Christ."*  
How does Ecclesiastes 1:1-11 help to provide perspective for us as we go about our lives?
  
4. I shared about the following Hebrew word which is important for us to know in order to better understand Ecclesiastes:  
הֶבֶל (heḅel) translation: "Vanity" (possibly "meaningless" or "futility")  
Literally - vapor/breath/smoke.  
Figuratively - emptiness, vanity, futility: essentially something that appears substantive, but holds nothing real/solid.  
Have you had an experience where you tried to find significance/joy/satisfaction in something that ultimately left you empty?  
How does life in Jesus provide meaning to what would otherwise be a truly meaningless life?  
How does Jesus enable us to go through the same experiences with a perspective that they have purpose/value now?
  
5. Based upon what we know of Solomon's life, how is he uniquely positioned by the Lord to write this book of "wisdom literature"?  
How do his observations of creation also reflect the human experience of seemingly purposeless cycles?  
How does knowing that we have a Creator who's designed things - including our lives - with purpose change our perspective?
  
6. Below are the "Today's Takeaways" from this sermon.

<p><b>THE NATURAL ORDER OF THINGS POST-FALL:</b></p> <p><i>The world moves in a seemingly never-ending cycle!</i></p> <p><i>We seek true satisfaction in life, but it eludes us!</i></p> <p><i>We live, we labor &amp; toil, we die...[rinse &amp; repeat]!</i></p> <p><b>LEADS TO DESPAIR!</b></p>	<b>VS</b>	<p><b>THE RENEWED ORDER OF THINGS IN CHRIST:</b></p> <p><i>The world moves in a seemingly never-ending cycle!</i></p> <p><i>We see the insatiability of this world &amp; seek the Lord!</i></p> <p><i>We live life with eternity in mind by faith in Jesus!</i></p> <p><b>LEADS TO REAL HOPE!</b></p>
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Compare/contrast the two descriptions of "The Natural Order post-fall" & "The Renewed Order in Christ" & where each leads.  
As you consider how you're living at this time, which description more accurately reflects your prevailing mentality?