



Your Work

Ecclesiastes 1:2,3,7,8,12-14,17, 2:1-5,8-11,17: "Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher. "Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless."³ What do people gain from all their labor at which they toil under the sun?...⁷ All streams flow into the sea, yet the sea is never full. To the place the streams come from, there they return again.⁸ All things are wearisome, more than one can say. The eye never has enough of seeing, nor the ear its fill of hearing...¹² I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem.¹³ I applied my mind to study and to explore by wisdom all that is done under the heavens. What a heavy burden God has laid on mankind!¹⁴ I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind...¹⁶ I said to myself, 'Look, I have increased in wisdom more than anyone... I have experienced much of wisdom and knowledge.'¹⁷ Then I applied myself to the understanding of wisdom, and also of madness and folly, but I learned that this, too, is a chasing after the wind. I said to myself, 'Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good.' But that also proved to be meaningless.² 'Laughter,' I said, 'is madness...'³ I tried cheering myself with wine... I wanted to see what was good for people to do under the heavens during the few days of their lives.⁴ I undertook great projects: I built houses for myself and planted vineyards.⁵ I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them... I also owned more herds and flocks than anyone in Jerusalem before me.⁸ I amassed silver and gold for myself... I acquired male and female singers, and a harem as well—the delights of a man's heart.⁹ I became greater by far than anyone in Jerusalem before me...¹⁰ I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure. My heart took delight in all my labor, and this was the reward for all my toil.¹¹ Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun... So, I hated life."

1. Your Money
2. Your Work
3. Your Person

YOU don't need the PERFECT JOB
YOU need the PERFECT PERSPECTIVE

Genesis 1:26-30: "Then God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.'²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God, he created them; male and female, he created them.²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.'²⁹ Then God said, 'I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.³⁰ And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food."

YOU are a CREATOR of MEANING

If it falls your lot to be a street sweeper, go on out and sweep streets like Michelangelo painted pictures; sweep streets like Handel and Beethoven composed music; sweep streets like Shakespeare wrote poetry; sweep streets so well that all the host of heaven and earth will have to pause and say, 'Here lived a great street sweeper who swept his job well...' "There will be a day, [and] the question won't be, 'How many awards did you get in life?' Not that day. It won't be, 'How popular were you in your social setting?' That won't be the question that day. It will not ask how many degrees you've been able to get. The question that day will not be concerned with whether you are a 'Ph.D.' or a 'no D.' It will not be concerned with whether you went to Morehouse or whether you went to 'No House.' The question that day will not be, 'How beautiful is your house?' The question that day will not be, 'How much money did you accumulate? How much did you have in stocks and bonds?' The question that day will not be, 'What kind of automobile did you have?' On that day the question will be, 'What did you do for others?'