

How Should You Live?

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

Life Group Discussion – March 10th, 2019

The book of Ecclesiastes tells us about the meaning of life and it shows us how we should live on this Earth. In this passage, we learn three things about how we should live.

1. We must change our values

**“Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher.
“Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.”
(Ecclesiastes 1:2)**

This verse shows that we have our priorities backwards. Most things in our lives are meaningless.

For example, we can study hard, work hard, live as diligently as possible our entire lives but at the end what was the point? There are so many questions that we have that the world cannot answer. We are trying to find answers from creation when only the Creator is able to give us any response.

God tells us that our value must be centered around Him. This is the only way we will find purpose in our lives and it is the only way we will look back on our lives without regret.

2. We must have a purpose

If we do not understand our purpose or if we don't see the bigger plan that God has in our lives, then we will not be able to endure any hardships in life. When bad things happen to us, we are able to have joy and peace because we understand the character of God and that He is doing something greater in our lives.

Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test? (2 Corinthians 13:5)

We are constantly be tested in our faith, but without a purpose we will not be able to grow.

3. Take care of your family well

Enjoy life with your wife, whom you love, all the days of this meaningless life that God has given you under the sun—all your meaningless days. For this is your lot in life and in your toilsome labor under the sun. (Ecclesiastes 9:9)

A happy life starts with a happy family. If you do not have a strong relationship with your wife or your children, the rest of your life will begin to break.

Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil. (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)

The conclusion of life is to fear God and keep His commandments. In this way we will be able to endure all circumstances and live in peace and joy.

For Shining Star, our purpose is to reach the nations for the glory of God. We send out and support missionaries and we believe that the vision of the church is keeping His commandments and putting Him first in our lives.

I pray that we would become a Christ-centered community that loves God and loves one another.

SHARING-----

1. When was a time you realized that what you were trying to do was “meaningless”? When was that accomplishment, amount of money, or relationship you thought would be everything turn out to be empty?
2. In the sermon, we learned about “chronos” and “kairos”. What do those mean to you now?
3. The title of the sermon is “How should you live?”. In what part of the sermon spoke to you and helped you to realize how you should live?