



January 5, 2020  
Pastor Matt Doan

## **What's the Point? Ecclesiastes 1:1-11**

### **Life is Temporary, So what's the Point? Ecclesiastes 1:1-2**

Ecclesiastes 1:2 – *“Vanity of vanities,” says the Preacher, Vanity of vanities! All is vanity.”*

- Who is the Preacher? (vs. 1)
  - *“Son of David, King of Jerusalem...”* Solomon?
  - *“Qohlet”* - Teacher, Preacher, Assembler
  - Three characters in Ecclesiastes: preacher, narrator, listener
- Vanity of Vanities (vs. 2)
  - Hebrew term meaning “vapor, breath or mist”
  - The word vanity occurs 39 times in the book of Ecclesiastes
  - Ecclesiastes describes life after Eden and before Heaven

### **Life is Predictable, So what's the Point? Ecclesiastes 1:3-7**

Ecclesiastes 1:5 – *“Also, the sun rises and the sun sets; And hastening to its place it rises there again.”*

- Your work is in vain (vs. 3)
- Your generations will come and go (vs. 4)
- You will experience the monotony of nature (vs. 5-7)

### **Life Doesn't Satisfy, So what's the Point? Ecclesiastes 1:8-11**

Ecclesiastes 1:10 – *“Is there anything of which one might say, “See this, it is new?”*

- You will find nothing satisfies (vs. 8)
- Your search for something new will come up empty (vs. 9-10)
- You won't be remembered (vs. 11)

### **The Answer to Life's Most Important Question Ecclesiastes 12:13-14**

*“The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person...”*

- Every person is continually living their answer to the question, “What's the Point?”
- The narrator of Ecclesiastes gives the ultimate answer to the question, “What's the Point” (Ecclesiastes 12)
- Jesus and Ecclesiastes - Matthew 12:42; John 10:10; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Colossians 2:2-3

*“We all have this deep sense of oughtness... things ought to go this way, things ought to go that way.”*  
- Tim Chaddick

## Digging Deeper + LifeGroup Discussion:

Great companion videos to our "What's the Point" Sermon series: "Better" by Tim Chaddick at [rightnowmedia.org](http://rightnowmedia.org)  
Need an account? Check out our website for how to access this free resource at [calvarylife.org/rightnow](http://calvarylife.org/rightnow)

**Modern and ancient Philosophers have attempted to answer the question, "What's the Point?"**

- **Humanism:** Mankind is in charge and by study and hard work we can continually better ourselves
- **Hedonism:** Pleasure is the goal and aim of life, "eat, drink and be merry" (Ecclesiastes 8)
- **Materialism:** Possessions can satisfy, so get all you can get
- **Fatalism:** Life is rigged, resign yourself and live passively and cynical

**In Colossians 2:6-8, we are given encouragement that faith in Jesus is better than any ancient/modern philosophy:**  
*"Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude. See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ."*

## Next Steps:

**GROW IN COMMUNITY:** The Bible encourages Jesus-followers to be planted, rooted, growing, maturing, and able to withstand the pressures of the world. At Calvary, we believe this happens best in community. So, take a next step today and explore ways to deepen and grow in your faith by joining a Group or attending a Gathering. Pick up the new 2020 Groups & Gatherings guide in the Lobby or visit [calvarylife.org/grow](http://calvarylife.org/grow)

## NEW GATHERINGS BEGIN THIS WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8th AT 7:00PM

**Alpha Course** - Beginner's class on what Christianity is all about (Fellowship Hall)

**Pastor's Bible Study** -, "Learning from the Bible Jesus Used" with David Mitchell (Chapel)

**Financial Peace University** - Video workshop series with Dave Ramsey (W209)

**Celebrate Recovery** - Christ-centered, 12-Step program (S6)

**Hispanic Prayer and Bible Study** (Fireside Room)

**Children's - Birth-5th Grade** (Nursery and Playhouse)

**Middle School + High School programs** (Underground)

## In Response:

**COMMUNION:** Communion is a "meal" for believers in Jesus Christ to help us give thanks and remember His death on the cross for the forgiveness of sins. The matzah bread represents the body of Christ given for us. The cup of juice represents the blood of Christ that was shed to pay the price for our sins. We are called to examine ourselves before taking communion (Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-34). We typically pass communion elements the first Sunday of the month. Most other weeks, communion is available at tables around the room after the sermon.