



March 15, 2020
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What's the Ultimate Point of Anything? Ecclesiastes 12:9-14

What Gives Life Real Value: Fear God and keep His commandments.

Ecclesiastes 12:9-10: *"In addition to being a wise man, the Preacher also taught the people **knowledge**; and he **pondered**, **searched** out and **arranged** many proverbs. The Preacher sought to find **delightful words** and to **write** words of **truth correctly**."*

How to find God's truth? Knowledge = to know God personally/intimately.

- Ponder God's truth. "**ponder**" used of scales to find balance, to test and prove something. *Observe what God says.* Ask a lot of questions.
- Search God's truth. "**search**" means to investigate and examine God's truth. *Interpret what God says.* What does it mean? What do other passages say about this one?
- Arrange God's truth. "**arrange**" means to make straight. *Apply what God says.* How does it direct my life?
- God's words are a **delight**, and pleasurable so **write**/communicate **correctly**. (v.10)
Jeremiah 15:16; 2 Timothy 2:14-15; Psalm 73:16-17

Remember the purpose of God's truth. Ecclesiastes 12:11; 2 Timothy 3:14-17

- God will correct us when we are wrong. *"the words of wise men are like goads."* (v.11)
- God's truth will give us strength and stability. *"masters of these collections are like well driven nails."* (v.11)
1 Peter 1:22-23; 2 Timothy 1:13
- Hebrews 4:12: *"For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart."*

Be warned and cautious about "people's truth" of this world. Ecclesiastes 12:12

"the writing of many books is endless, and excessive devotion to books is wearying to the body."

Lamentations 2:14; Colossians 2:8; 2 Corinthians 10:5; 2 Timothy 2:14; Hebrews 4:12

Proverbs 28:26: *"He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, But he who walks wisely will be delivered."*

God's conclusion for a life of value. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

*"The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and **keep** His commandments, because this applies to every person. For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil."*

- Everyone should live in a **fear** of God and **keep** His commandments. (v.13) Ecclesiastes 8:12
"fear" = to live in awe and reverence of God. "keep" = to exercise great care, be diligent. Nehemiah 8:1-12
- Everyone will give an account to God at the final judgment, and our only hope is to live by faith in Jesus. (v.14)
Romans 2:5; John 3:36; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 20:11-15

Digging Deeper + LifeGroup Discussion:

There are about 28 days to Easter. John 14-17 reveals Jesus' last private days with His disciples. Listen to His words as His disciples did and respond to these passages. Take two days on each passage below so you can embrace Jesus, His teaching and prayers, as you approach Easter.

John 14:1-6 – What has Jesus ascended into heaven to do for those that believe in Him? Is that a promise you can claim? Is there any other source for our salvation? Who can you pray for that needs that promise?

John 14:7-15 – How does Jesus relate to His Father? How should we depend on the Father? What promise does Jesus offer you in vs. 13-15? Are you pursuing that promise?

John 14:16-23 – What “helper” does Jesus promise to His followers? How does that “helper” help us? Why should we keep His commandments?

John 14:24-31 – How will the “helper” assist you with God’s truth and commandments?

Jesus offers us peace: how is it different than the world’s peace? How does Jesus help us with fear?

John 15:1-11 – Why is it important to “abide” in Jesus? How will it help your prayer life?

John 15:12-17 – How are we to love others? How are you loving others?

John 15:18-25 – Why is it difficult for a follower of Jesus to live in this world? How can His “helper” the Holy Spirit help?

John 15:26-16:15 – How can the “helper” the Holy Spirit work in the world today and how can He help you?

John 16:16-22 – What does Jesus teach us about “grief?” How painful must it have been for His disciples when Jesus died on the cross?

John 16:23-33 – What does Jesus promise His followers about prayer? Why can it be difficult to remain faithful in following Jesus when those around us reject Jesus?

John 17:1-5 – What does Jesus do to glorify His Father? How can you do the same?

John 17:6-12 – What does Christ ask His Father for regarding our lives? Accept His prayer for you.

John 17:13-2 – What does Jesus ask from His Father for us regarding His message of truth and our unity?

John 17:22-26 – Why is unity important? What does Jesus desire for us? What does Jesus make known to others? Why?

Resources and Reminders regarding COVID-19 Coronavirus:

Worship Service Live-Stream: Calvary will not be having in-person, on-campus groups or services through March 25. This includes the main Worship Service, Hispanic Ministry, Logos Bible Church, LifeGroups, Classes, Gatherings, Children, Students, etc. The Worship Service will be streamed live online each Sunday at 9:30am, available to watch on your computer, smartphone, tablet, or TVs with that capability. We would love for you to gather with your family or a few friends and take part in the worship service remotely. You'll be able to watch the entire service on Facebook at fb.com/calvarylife, on Vimeo at vimeo.com/calvarylife, and our website at calvarylife.org/live

Online or In-Person Giving: Please pray for those who are affected economically by this virus and for our church finances as well, that God would sustain and provide through this challenging season. The church office will still be open during the week if you would like to drop off a donation, or consider giving online this week at calvarylife.org/give

Resources for Children: For ideas and resources for families to help “do church” with their kids on these Sundays, visit calvarylife.org/live to find out more. This webpage will be updated with info before the corresponding Sunday morning.

Resources for LifeGroups: LifeGroups may still meet in homes and still care for one another. Robert Carter, LifeGroups Pastor, will be contacting all leaders with these resources or check back periodically at calvarylife.org/live

Prayer Response: April 12 is Easter Sunday. Please be in prayer for who you will invite to hear the Good News of Jesus. Pray for this virus to not disrupt this outreach we have been planning for years. Please also pray for all of our missionaries as they continue their work around the world and deal with problems caused by this epidemic.

Check our website for updates in the coming days at calvarylife.org/health



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