

MEANINGLESS?

Unmasking the Myths that Make us Miserable

Have you ever gotten something you always wanted? Maybe you chased it for years, working, praying, and paying for it, and once you finally had it, you felt empty and unfulfilled. And so you kept going, chasing, and thinking, "If I only had a little bit more, then I'll be satisfied." But what if that's a lie? What if the things we're all chasing were never meant to satisfy us? For six weeks we'll learn some hard lessons from the book of *Ecclesiastes*. Written by King Solomon, *Ecclesiastes* is a cautionary tale about what happens when you get everything you ever wanted and it's still not enough. With this series, we'll expose life's darkest lies by holding them up to the light of God's truth.

May 10, 2026 - Myth #5: Nothing Really Matters

Review question: Why is Ecclesiastes - unlike the rest of the Bible - partially true and partially false?

Why is today's myth - *nothing really matters* - the "Mother of all myths"?

"The only absolute knowledge attainable by man is that life is meaningless." - Leo Tolstoy

How does Tolstoy's philosophy echo that of King Solomon in Ecclesiastes? Where have you seen this philosophy on display in our world today?

When he wrote Ecclesiastes, King Solomon's worldview was fallen and flawed. In chapters 9-11, he articulated three dark concepts that do not align with the rest of Scripture. First:

King Solomon's (Fallen) Philosophy of Life:

1. It doesn't matter

Ecclesiastes 9:11-16 - I have seen something else under the sun: The race is not to the swift or the battle to the strong, nor does food come to the wise or wealth to the brilliant or favor to the learned; but time and chance happen to them all. Moreover, no one knows when their hour will come: As fish are caught in a cruel net, or birds are taken in a snare, so people are trapped by evil times that fall unexpectedly upon them. I also saw under the sun this example of wisdom that greatly impressed me: There was once a small city with only a few people in it. And a powerful king came against it, surrounded it and built huge siege works against it. Now there lived in that city a man poor but wise, and he saved the city by his wisdom. But nobody remembered that poor man. So I said, "Wisdom is better than strength." But the poor man's wisdom is despised, and his words are no longer heeded.

What did Solomon get right in this passage, and what did he get wrong?

Consider this quote from the famous 20th Century scientist Dr. Stephen Jay Gould:

We are here because one odd group of fishes had a peculiar fin anatomy that could transform into legs for terrestrial creatures.. because a small and tenuous species, arising in Africa a quarter of a million years ago, has managed, so far, to survive... We may yearn for a 'higher answer' - but none exists. - Stephen Jay Gould

How does Gould's perspective mirror King Solomon's in Ecclesiastes 9?

How is Solomon's philosophy out of step with God's Truth found elsewhere in Scripture? (See Ephesians 2:10)

King Solomon's (Fallen) Philosophy of Life:

2. It doesn't matter

Ecclesiastes 10:5-9 - There is an evil I have seen under the sun, the sort of error that arises from a ruler: Fools are put in many high positions, while the rich occupy the low ones. I have seen slaves on horseback, while princes go on foot like slaves. Whoever digs a pit may fall into it; whoever breaks through a wall may be bitten by a snake. Whoever quarries stones may be injured by them; whoever splits logs may be endangered by them.

Summarize Solomon's perspective here. What is his grievance, exactly?

Consider this quote from 20th Century philosopher Aldous Huxley.

I had motives for not wanting the world to have a meaning; and consequently assumed that it had none, and was able without any difficulty to find satisfying reasons for this assumption. The philosopher who finds no meaning in the world is ... concerned to prove that there is no valid reason why he personally should not do as he wants to do. For myself, as no doubt for

most of my friends, the philosophy of meaninglessness was essentially an instrument of liberation from a certain system of morality. We objected to the morality because it interfered with our sexual freedom. The supporters of this system claimed that it embodied the meaning - the Christian meaning, they insisted - of the world. There was one admirably simple method of refuting these people and justifying ourselves in our erotic revolt: we would deny that the world had any meaning whatsoever. - Aldous Huxley

What is Huxley suggesting about a man's motivations for believing that life is ultimately meaningless?

What is the Bible's response to this flawed worldview? (See Matthew 5:16)

King Solomon's (Fallen) Philosophy of Life:

3. It doesn't matter _____

Ecclesiastes 11:1-6 - Ship your grain across the sea; after many days you may receive a return. Invest in seven ventures, yes, in eight; you do not know what disaster may come upon the land. If clouds are full of water, they pour rain on the earth. Whether a tree falls to the south or to the north, in the place where it falls, there it will lie. Whoever watches the wind will not plant; whoever looks at the clouds will not reap. As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things. Sow your seed in the morning, and at evening let your hands not be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will do equally well.

Consider these thoughts from 18th Century philosopher Voltaire and 20th Century author Bertrand Russell:

Man is a stranger to his own research; He knows not whence he comes, nor whither goes.

Tormented atoms in a bed of mud, Devoured by death, a mockery of fate. - Voltaire

That Man is the product of causes which had no prevision... that his origin, his growth, his hopes and fears, his loves and his beliefs, are but the outcome of accidental collocations of atoms; that no fire, no heroism, no intensity of thought and feeling, can preserve an individual life beyond the grave; that all the labours of the ages, all the devotion, all the inspiration, all the noonday brightness of human genius, are destined to extinction in the vast death of the solar system, and that the whole temple of Man's achievement must inevitably be buried beneath the debris of a universe in ruins—all these things, if not quite beyond dispute, are yet so nearly certain, that no philosophy which rejects them can hope to stand. Only within the scaffolding of these truths, only on the firm foundation of unyielding despair, can the soul's habitation henceforth be safely built. -

Bertrand Russell

What is the Bible's answer to the false notion that it doesn't matter what you know? (See John 1:1-4)

Solomon shows us how much our **WORLDVIEW** shapes our lives. **What is the Christian worldview, and how does it influence the ways in which we live?**



Next Week: Graduation Sunday

Next weekend, May 17th, we'll celebrate all of our students graduating into the next level of programming, and honor our graduating seniors of 2026! Visit **[thestory.church/events](https://www.thestory.church/events)** to learn more and share your child's info with us if they're graduating this year.



Weekly Prayer Room

Join us **Wednesdays at noon** for weekly prayer in the upstairs Chapel. This hour-long Prayer Room is designed to help you reflect on God's Word and feel His tangible presence as we pray in community. Learn more: **[thestory.church/events](https://www.thestory.church/events)**



Summer Camps for PreK - 5th

Registration is open for our two camps for kids happening in June and July - VBS (June 22-25) & Bible Camp (July 14-16)! Visit **[thestory.church/events](https://www.thestory.church/events)** to learn more and register your children today.