

Is Life Meaningless? (Bilingual)

Disclaimer: this is an automatically generated machine transcription - there may be small errors or mistranscriptions. Please refer to the original audio if you are in any doubt.

Date: 13 March 2011

Preacher: Ben Wong

- [0 : 0 0] Today we will begin a new series of sermons on the book of Ecclesiastes.
- We will talk about its background and its central themes.
- Traditionally, it is believed that the book is written by Solomon, son of King David.
- Even though it doesn't mention the author by name, it says in verse 1 that the words of the teacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem. The word in English is teacher. It does not mean a preacher or a pastor in today's sense. It literally means teacher.
- In the last book, we will also see that the author is someone who is rich, both in wealth and wisdom.
- [1 : 5 2] So, although there is no proof of the author, who is Solomon. So, even though the name is not specifically mentioned, it is very easy for us to guess that he is Solomon.
- Because the Bible recalls that no one surpassed Solomon in wisdom. And no king surpassed him in wealth.
- The book of Ecclesiastes is traditionally classified as wisdom literature, just like Job and Proverbs.
- It is a bit more formalized. It is a bit more formalized way of living wisdom or wisdom. And what it talks about is wisdom and philosophy from a universal point of view.
- So, it is not only for the people of Jesus or Israel. It is not targeted specifically at Christians or Jews. It is not targeted specifically at Christians or Jews.
- [3 : 1 1] It is a reflection on experiences of life, useful for teaching younger generations. That is a reflection on experiences of life, useful for teaching younger generations.
- and hence Ecclesiastes is written by a wise and powerful king in his old age as a summary to his observations of life.
- Not many people in church would preach on the book. Because in the early days of the book, the author gives this definition to life.
- What is vanity? What is vanity? It doesn't mean that we don't have anything in life.
- It means that all your toils in life are done in vain.
- [4 : 3 8] In other words, your labor is like a mirage in a desert.
- It might look very detailed with the city and the river in the mirage, but it looks like something that you would want to work towards.
- But when you start to pursue it, or you rush towards it, it suddenly evaporates into thin air.
- This is a very different view of life. This pessimistic view of life is totally opposite to a Christian's worldview.
- Because as you know, after we believe in Jesus Christ, our view of life is very positive. We have received new lives through our belief in Christ.
- [5 : 5 3] Our life will be used by God to change the world through his gospel. But in Ecclesiastes, life is vanity.

Because they will fear that you won't do anything. Everything is useless anyway. The teachings of Ecclesiastes is totally different to traditional teachings.

But what this book says is, even if you work hard, it will end up being nothing.

This content is not a good thing. It will be put in the world of life in our world. So, in today's message, in chapter 1, between verse 1 to 11, 3 to 11, the teacher observes life within the perspective of the universe.

He says, what do people gain from all the toil at which they toil under the sun? ■■■■■■■■■■, ■■■■■■■■■■, ■■■■■■■■■■. He says, observe the universe.

[8 : 39] ██████████
██████, ████████, ████████, ██████████, ██████████

[illegible]

There is nothing new under the sun. Is there a thing of which it is said, See, this is new. It has already been. In the ages before us. ■■■■■■■■■■, ■■■■■■■■■■
■, ■■■■■■■■■■, ■■■■, ■■■■, ■■■■■■, ■■■■■■■■■■, ■■■■ iPhone, ■■■■■■■■■■,
■■■■■■■ By new things, the teacher didn't mean technology, which brings us televisions,
and mobile phones. and computers.

[illegible]

