

WISDOM for LIFE

The Book of Ecclesiastes



Life is *HEVEL*

It is...
Vanity/Ellusive/
Tricky/Shifty/
Puzzling

...like trying to
grasp smoke.





The Experiment

What Offers true Satisfaction and Meaning?

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- 1) Wisdom & Knowledge? (Eccl. 1:16-18)**
- 2) The Pursuit of Pleasure? (Eccl. 2 :1-3)**
- 3) Work? (Eccl 2:4-10)**

Initial Conclusions

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- 2) There is something good and intrinsically satisfying in a good days' work.**
- 3) There is fun and enjoyment to be found in life.**

Final Conclusions

1) It's better to be wise than foolish.

BUT

- **The more you learn the more you realize how messed up everything really is.**
- **Wisdom can't save you from death.**

Final Conclusions

3) There is fun and enjoyment to be found in life.

BUT

- **The experiences and the stuff cannot provide the deeper sense of satisfaction and meaning we are looking for.**
- **The Law of Diminishing Returns**



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3) There is fun and enjoyment to be found in life.

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- **The experiences and the stuff cannot provide the deeper sense of satisfaction and meaning we are looking for.**
- **The Law of Diminishing Returns**

Final Conclusions

2) There is something good and intrinsically satisfying in a good days' work.

BUT

- **So what do people get in this life for all their hard work and anxiety? Their days of labor are filled with pain and grief; even at night their minds cannot rest. (Eccl. 2:22)**

Final Conclusions

2) There is something good and intrinsically satisfying in a good days' work.

BUT

- **Some people work wisely with knowledge and skill, then must leave the fruit of their efforts to someone who hasn't worked for it. This, too, is meaningless, a great tragedy. (Eccl. 2:21)**



Don't Believe the Hype

**Pulling it
All Together**



Practice Contentment

Pulling it
All Together



But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.

1 Timothy 6:6-8



**Use and develop your
intellect while accepting
its limitations**

**Pulling it
All Together**



Stay open to outside help

**Pulling it
All Together**



Once we, too, were foolish and disobedient. We were misled and became slaves to many lusts and pleasures. Our lives were full of evil and envy, and we hated each other. But—When God our Savior revealed his kindness and love, he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit.

Titus 3:3-5



The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14



Stay open to outside help

**Pulling it
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Beyond the Blue

Josh Garrels

Stand on the shores of a site unseen
The substance of this dwells in me
Cause my natural eyes only go skin deep
But the eye's of my heart anchor the sea
Plumbing the depths to the place in between
The tangible world and the land of a dreams
Because everything here ain't quite it seems
There's more beneath the appearance of things
A beggar could be king within the shadows of a wing

And wisdom will honor everyone who will learn
To listen, to love, and to pray and discern
And to do the right thing even when it burns
And to live in the light through each treacherous turn
A man is weak, but the spirit yearns
To keep on course from the bow to the stern
And to throw overboard every selfish concern
That tries to work for what can't be earned
Sometimes the only way to return is to go
Where the winds will take you

And to let go, of all, you cannot hold onto
For the hope, beyond the blue

Yellow and gold as the new day dawns
Like a virgin unveiled who waited so long
To dance and rejoice and to sing her song
And to rest in the arms of a love so strong
No one comes unless they're drawn
By the voice of desire that leads em' along
To the redemption of what went wrong
By the blood that covered the innocent one
No more separation between us

So lift your voice just one more time
If there's any hope may it be a sign
That everything was made to shine
Despite what you can see
So take this bread and drink this wine
And hide your spirit in the vine
Where all things will work by a good design
For those who will believe

And let go, of all, you cannot hold onto
For the hope, beyond the blue

Said I let go, of all, I could not hold onto
For the hope, I have, in you