

THE MEANING OF LIFE

ECCLESIASTES 12:13

INTRODUCTION:

1. Who is at the center of your life? Is your life self-centered or God-centered? A God-centered life is the life we are to live.
2. Consider the name of God. (Ex. 3.14). Our lives are to be centered around the One is and Who always will be.

I. SOLOMON SEARCHES FOR THE MEANING OF LIFE

- A. Consider the context of the book of Ecclesiastes.
 1. Solomon had set himself on a mission. (Ecc. 1.12,13)
 2. What was his mission? (Ecc. 2.1-3)
 3. Ecclesiastes is his journal of his experiences. (Ecc. 1.1)
- B. Consider the experiences that Solomon recorded.
 1. He tried to find meaning in pleasure. (Ecc. 2.3)
 2. He tried to find meaning in prosperity. (Ecc. 2.4-8,15)
 3. He tried to find meaning in accomplishments. (Ecc. 3.22)
 4. He tried to find meaning in popularity. (Ecc. 4.15,16)
 5. He tried to find meaning in righteousness. Ecc. 7.16)
- C. Consider the conclusion of his experiences.
 1. Solomon was disappointed in his findings. (Ecc. 1.2).
 2. **ECCLESIASTES 12.13:** Solomon found his answer.

II. JESUS EXPLAINS THE MEANING OF LIFE

- A. **1 CORINTHIANS 10.31:** *“Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”*
 1. *“Whatever you do”* No matter what it is you find to do.
 2. *“Do all for the glory of God.”* The whole of what you do.
- B. **MARK 12.30:** *“And you shall love the Lord your God...”*
 1. *“All of your heart.”* Your emotions.
 2. *“All of your soul.”* Your psyche.
 3. *“All of your mind.”* Your intellect.
 4. *“All of your strength.”* Your ability.

CONCLUSION: Our focus is the be on

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FEBRUARY 22, 2026
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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

February 22, 2026

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

The Law is for Our Benefit

The New Testament is a system of laws that are to be obeyed. It is called, *“the perfect law of liberty”* (James 1.25). It is called, *“the law of Christ”* (Gal. 6.2). What are the benefits of keeping the commandments of God? In Romans 7, Paul references the Old Law of Moses, yet what Paul writes applies to all of God’s laws. From this passage there are two benefits.

The laws of God expose sin. Paul wrote, *“But sin, that it might appear sin”* (Rom. 7.13). The law helps to identify sin (Rom. 4.14). God has given us a law to follow. In this law, God tells us the things we are to do and not do. From this, we learn that if we do what God doesn’t want us to do and do not do what God wants us to do, then it is sin (1 John 3.4).

The laws of God reveal the consequences of sin. In the same verse Paul wrote, *“But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good”* (Rom. 7.13). There are two kinds of death that result in sin. There is spiritual death. When we sin, we are separated from God (Rom. 6.23). There is also eternal death (Rev. 21.8). If we do not take care of the sin in our lives and leave this world in that condition, then we will spend eternity in hell. Sin has eternal consequences.

When we understand the benefits of the laws of God, it will encourage us to keep His commandments. CLP

JESUS IS THE JUST ONE

Acts 7:52

INTRODUCTION:

1. Witnesses were sent out to testify of Jesus. And through their testimony, we can learn about Jesus. (Acts 1.8; 1 John 1.1,2)
2. In Acts 6, the Jews accused Stephen. (Acts 6.11,13).
3. Acts 7 is Stephen's response. (Acts 7.1)

I. STEPHEN'S DEFENSE

- A. They accused him of speaking against God.
 1. Stephen preached about God's plan starting with Abraham. (Acts 7.2,8,9,14)
 2. It was the Jews who spoke against God.
- B. They accused him of speaking against Moses.
 1. Moses as the rejected one. (Acts 7.18,20,27,35)
 2. It was the Jews who rejected Moses.
- C. They accused him of speaking against the Law.
 1. Stephen preached about the law. (Acts 7.38,39)
 2. It was the Jews who rejected the Law.
- D. They accused him of speaking against the Temple.
 1. Stephen preached about the temple. (Acts 7.44,46)
 2. It was the Jews who elevated the temple higher than God elevated it. (Acts 7.49,50)
- E. Stephen's conclusion. (Acts 7.51-53)

II. STEPHEN'S DESCRIPTION

- A. Jesus is the One who fulfilled Old Testament prophecy.
 1. **Acts 7:52:** The prophets "*foretold the coming*"
 2. Jesus was the One predicted. (1 Cor. 15.1,2)
- B. Jesus is the Just One.
 1. **Acts 7:52:** "*the coming of the Just One*"
 2. As the righteous One, Jesus made it possible for us to be righteous ones. (2 Cor. 5.21)
 3. Jesus was tempted in every possible way making Him our sympathizing High Priest. (Heb. 4.15).

CONCLUSION: You can enjoy the forgiveness of sins and be right with God because Jesus never sinned.

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

A teacher once wrote, "Do not pray for easy lives, pray for strong men. Do you pray for tasks equal to your power. Pray for power equal to your tasks." Another anonymous source wrote, "Prayer moves the hand that moves the universe."

In Psalm 86, we read of a petition made by David. In the first verse of the psalm, we read, "*Bow down Your ear, O Lord, hear me...*" (Ps. 86.1). The idea expressed in this verse is the concept of God turning His ear in our direction. God is not only aware of our prayers but is listening and receptive to them (1 Pet. 3.12).

In Psalm 86.6, David continues this thought: "*Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; and attend to the voice of my supplications.*" What David is asking is for God to turn in his direction and pay attention to what he is saying. It is as if David is asking God to cup His ear in order to tune out extra noise and hone in on what David is saying. From this we see the concept of prayer. It is asking God to turn in our direction and give attention to the matters that concern us most.

The reason we pray to God is because we are incapable of accomplishing on our own the things that we are asking. It is a total dependence upon God. We approach Him in prayer, as David wrote at the end of verse one, "*for I am poor and needy*" (Ps. 86.1).

To pray to God is to also acknowledge His greatness. David wrote in Psalm 86.10, "*For You are great.*" We are incapable of accomplishing those things that we are asking, but we are praying to a God who can do all things (Eph. 3.20). He is the God who created the universe. He is the God who forgives sins.

Have you ever approached someone and asked for help, and they were either unwilling or unable to help? Have you ever been approached by someone with a genuine need and you had the desire to help, but there was nothing you could do to help them? God has the ability to help. We are praying to a God who is in a position to answer our prayers.

It is so much easier to get up in the morning knowing that all things are in the hand of God. He can do all things. He wants to hear from us. What a blessing to have such a wonderful relationship with a God who wants to be involved in our lives. So "*pray without ceasing*" (1 Thess. 5.17).