



## Ecclesiastes: Where's the Hope? Home Fellowship Notes

**Sermon Date:** May 4, 2014

**Scripture:** Ecclesiastes 1-12

**Speaker:** Pastor Mike Jacobson

**Opener:** Do you remember the time when you finally concluded what you were going to do with your life? Or, As you were growing up did you ever dream about doing something different than what you are doing now?

**Introduction:** We live in a world where people are frantically running around looking for hope and meaning in life. They look for it in relationships. They look for it in false religions. They look for it in their jobs and finances. For many, they will go their graves having missed it completely.

**Question?** What do people do or where do people go to find meaning in life?

### I. Wisdom Literature

**Question?** Solomon looked back on his life and had some major regrets. Is it unusual for people to live with regrets from their past?

### II. Introduction to Ecclesiastes

**Question?** What is to be gained from reading a book (Ecclesiastes) that takes such a fatalistic and negative approach to life?

**Question?** Why do so many men and women go through a mid-life crisis?

**Question?** Ecclesiastes is a series of random thoughts, why is it important to "not take a text out of context"?

### III. Solomon: "Everything is Pointless?" (1:2)

**Question?** Do you agree with Solomon that everything under the sun is vanity? What does "under the sun" mean? What is "vanity?" What makes something meaningful?

**Question?** Solomon tried a wide range of human activities...but they did not satisfy? Are there people you know who are dealing with the same thing?

**Question?** Solomon had tunnel vision. What does that mean?

**Question?** What are the advantages of looking at life with a wide-angle lense? How can we see life with a "heavenly perspective"?

**Question?** Is everything "under the sun" really meaningless?

### IV. Our Times are in His Hands (3:11)

**Question?** Read Ecclesiastes 3:11. What comfort (if any) is found in the thought that God orders the times...or as the Psalm writer put it, "Our times are in His hands"? What does that mean?

**Question?** What advantage do we have by remembering God in the days of our youth? Is it ever too late to "remember God" and start afresh?

**Question?** • How does Christ bring meaning and life into a dead and meaningless world?

**Question?** What are the "false Christ's, false Messiah's, false hopes" that are most advertised and promoted today?

**Question?** • "The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man." (12:13). Who or what do you fear other than God at times?

**Question?** What's the relationship between those things we pursue (vanities) and the things we fear?

**Question?** How is fear of judgment one of the ways God mercifully preserves us from making sinful choices or living with misguided priorities?

**Prayer needs**