

**What gives your life
meaning?**

Ecclesiastes

Common Reactions to God's Complete Control

- “If God’s in total control, I don’t like him.”
- “If God is in total control, why is there so much injustice in the world?”
- “If God is in total control, do my choices matter?”

Ecclesiastes has a “missionary flavor.”
It “attempts to use...what we now
call ‘cultural apologetics’ to call
Gentiles...to straighten out their
thinking, acting, values, and”
to prepare them for eternity.

—Walter Kaiser, *Ecclesiastes: Total Life*

The Wisdom of Ecclesiastes 3:15 – 6:12

1. Injustice is rampant (3:15-17).
2. Death comes for all (3:18-22).
3. Oppression is constant (4:1-3).
4. Pursuing money is insane (4:4-8).
5. There's wisdom in friendship (4:9-12).

“Friendships are important,
not first and foremost as a
means to emotional fulfillment,
but as a matter of wisdom.
We need good friends if we are
to avoid making a mess of our lives.”

—Vaughan Roberts, *True Friendship*

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5. **There's** wisdom in friendship (4:9-12).
6. Political favor is fickle (4:13-16).
7. **There's** wisdom in sincere worship (5:1-7).
8. Politicians are often corrupt (5:8-9).
9. Pursuing money is insane (5:10-17).

- “The more you have...
- the more you want (v. 10).
 - the less you're satisfied (v. 10).
 - the more people (incl. the gov't) will come after it (v. 11).
 - the more you realize it does you no good (v. 11).
 - the more you have to worry about (v. 12).
 - the more you can hurt yourself by holding onto it (v. 13).
 - the more you have to lose (v. 14).
 - the more you'll leave behind (v. 15).”

Randy Alcorn, *The Treasure Principle*

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9. Pursuing money is insane (5:10-17).
10. There's wisdom in receiving food and work as gifts from God (5:18-20).
11. Affluenza is a rampant disease (6:1-7).
12. Wisdom can't change oppression (6:8-12).

The MAIN POINT of Ecclesiastes 3:15 – 6:12

Life can't be about crusading to fix injustice, accumulating wealth, or attaining political power. Such pursuits are empty.

Your life must be about God—worshiping him sincerely, pursuing his good gift of friendship and enjoying his daily gifts of work and food.

Conclusion

In this grievous world of injustice and death, we can only approach God in worship and receive simple gifts with joy **in God if we've been reconciled to God.**

We can only be reconciled to God if we commit our lives to his Son, Jesus, who suffered unjustly and died in our place.