



Main point: Find the joy that only God can give every day of your vain life.

- (1) The Big Picture
- (2) The facts about death
- (3) Finding joy in our ordinary lives

#1:

“(Ecclesiastes) is not the kind of book that we keep reading until we reach the end and get the answer, like a mystery. Instead it is a book in which we keep struggling with the problems of life, and as we struggle, we learn to trust God with the questions even when we do not have all the answers. This is how the Christian life works: it is not just about what we get at the end, but also about what we become along the way. Discipleship is a journey, and not merely a destination.”

Philip Ryken
Ecclesiastes: Why Everything Matters

#2:

Romans 11:33-34

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! “For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?”

#3:

“I’d brought with me a pocket copy of the book of Ecclesiastes. A line in *Moby Dick* lodged in my mind long ago: ‘The truest of all men was the Man of Sorrows, and the truest of all books is Solomon’s, and Ecclesiastes is the fine hammered steel of woe.’ I grabbed it off my bookshelf on the way here, figuring that a little fine-hammered steel would probably be a good thing to have on this trip. I’m no longer a believer, but I haven’t quite reached the point of reading aloud from Christopher Hitchens’s *God is Not Great* at deathbeds of loved ones.”

Christopher Buckley

#4:

“‘How are you doing?’ I asked grandpa. ‘Well, we got up this morning. It was a good day’...’Zack, when your grandmother and I wake up, we give thanks to God, because at our age, waking up is not a promise. Then, if we have the strength to do what we had planned to do that day, we give thanks to God that we had the strength to do it; because at our age, strength and health comes and goes. If we get a nap in and we wake up, we give thanks. If it’s dinnertime and we’re sitting down to eat, we give thanks not only for our food, but also that we can eat it, and that we made it through the day that far. After that, when we go to bed at night, we look at each other and then back on the day and we thank God for another day that he gave us to live. So, today we went fishing, and what do you know, we have all of these fish (they caught 26 fish)! The Good Lord must still have a purpose for us.’”

Zach Eswine
Recovering Eden: The Gospel According to Ecclesiastes



#5:

“Death has pointed its headlights at us and started its engine. Therefore, we must learn from God how to enjoy what he has given to us, knowing that none of it can save or satisfy us...Our spouse, our food, our work, and our place in the world (have certain God-given uses). None of these can satisfy our souls or provide the gain that only God can give. Trying to use them as such will only disappoint us. Yet, these creations are God-given and possess divine purpose. A joy resides with them for our notice and this by his design.”

Zach Eswine
Recovering Eden: The Gospel According to Ecclesiastes

#6:

“Sooner or later, whether due to age, sickness, or circumstance, there will be no other work to try, no other wife to leave, and no other menu from which we can order. At some point, we all have to come to terms with the spiritual truth that true joy is found in God and God is found right where His gifts are. God’s gifts are our lot. This means that right here where we are is where God will be found no matter what ruckus death makes.”

Zach Eswine
Recovering Eden: The Gospel According to Ecclesiastes