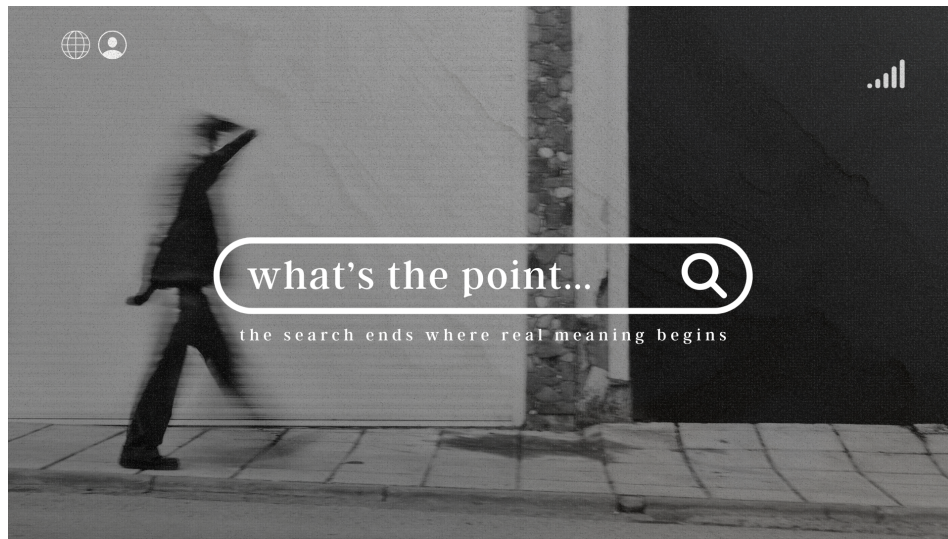




– Ecclesiastes Preaching Series –

The questions in Ecclesiastes are not the questions of an atheist or an agnostic. They are the questions of a believer who wants to keep faith honest. Ecclesiastes is honest faith, not doubt. It gives space for real-life tension and struggle.

- John Goldingay

Embrace the gift of life. Don't try to control it—receive it. This is the path to joy before God.

- Iain Provan

Dates: September into first part of November (See next page for specifics)

Themes addressed: Meaning, purpose, community, success, pleasure, wealth, brevity of life, suffering and hard times, joy in the daily grind, enjoying life for all its worth

Suggested Resources:

- RightNow Media:
 - [The Book of Ecclesiastes, Jonathan Pohluda](#)
 - [How to Read Ecclesiastes, Tim Mackie \(BibleProject\)](#)
- Commentaries:
 - Technical –
 - * Tremper Longman, *The Book of Ecclesiastes*. The New International Commentary on the Old Testament. Grand Rapids, 1998.
 - Craig Bartholomew, *Ecclesiastes*, Baker Commentary on the Old Testament, 2009.
 - Middle of the road –
 - * Iain Provan, *Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs*. The NIV Application Commentary. 2001.
 - Knut Heim, *Ecclesiastes: An Introduction and Commentary: Commentary*. 2019.
 - Explanatory –
 - John Goldingay, *Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs for Everyone*. Old Testament for Everyone. 2014.
 - * Warren Wiersbe. *Be Satisfied*. 1996.
 - Philip Ryken, *Ecclesiastes: Why Everything Matters*. Preaching the Word. 2010.

Series Title: “What’s the Point...”

- Based on key refrains: Ecclesiastes 3:12–15, 3:22, 5:18–20, 8:15, 9:7–10, 11:9–10
- Series Big Idea: True joy is found not in chasing life’s vanities, but in receiving each moment as a gift from God—living humbly, reverently, and gratefully before Him.



September 7 — “What’s the Point?”

- **Text:** Ecclesiastes 1:1–11
- **RightNow Media (RNM) Big Idea:** Life feels empty and purposeless when we search for meaning apart from God.
- **Theme:** Life under the sun is a vapor—cyclical, unsatisfying, repetitive.
- **Key Concept:** Meaninglessness comes from misaligned pursuits.
- **Insight:** The Preacher is not an atheist—he’s a believer wrestling honestly with life (Goldingay).



September 14 — “Chasing the Wind” What’s the point of pleasure and success?

- **Text:** Ecclesiastes 1:12–2:26
- **RNM Big Idea:** Nothing in life satisfies apart from God.
- **Theme:**
 - The vanity of wisdom (1:12–18)
 - The futility of wealth and pleasure (2:1–11)
 - The certainty of death (2:12–23)
 - **Wiersbe Summary:** Knowledge, things, and achievements cannot give meaning.
- **Insight:** Life is a gift—not a project to complete.



September 21 — “Time and Eternity”. What’s the point of this moment?

- **Text:** Ecclesiastes 3:1–22
- **RNM Big Idea:** God is sovereign, so we can live each day with gratitude.
- **Theme:** Embrace God’s timing; enjoy today.
- **Key Verse:** 3:11 – “He has made everything beautiful in its time...”
- **Cross-Ref:** Ephesians 5:15–16 – Make the most of every opportunity.



September 28 — “We’re Better Together” What’s the point of friendship and community?

- **Text:** Ecclesiastes 4:1–16
- **RNM Big Idea:** God designed us for community.
- **Theme:** Don’t live in isolation—God made us for relationships.
- **Key Verse:** 4:9–12 – “Two are better than one...”
- **Cross-Ref:** Genesis 2:18 – “It is not good for man to be alone.”



October 5 — “Money Isn’t the Meaning” What’s the point of money?

- **Text:** Ecclesiastes 5:1–6:12 (Key: 5:8–12)
 - **RNM Big Idea:** No amount of money can deliver God’s joy.
 - **Theme:** Work is good; money is not the goal.
 - **Cross-Ref:** 1 Timothy 6:10 – Love of money = root of all kinds of evil.
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 October 12 — “Wisdom in the Storm”. What’s the point of hard times?

- **Text:** Ecclesiastes 7:1–29 (Key: 7:14–23)
 - **RNM Big Idea:** God uses all circumstances to grow wisdom.
 - **Theme:** Life is hard, but God is good.
 - **Insight:** God makes the crooked straight (v.13); wisdom is forged in adversity.
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 October 19 — “Authority” Following the Leader? What’s the point of earthly authority?

- **Text:** Ecclesiastes 8:1–17
 - **RNM Big Idea:** Obeying earthly authority aligns us with God’s wisdom.
 - **Theme:** Respect leadership, even when life is unjust.
 - **Cross-Ref:** 1 Peter 2:13–17 – Submit for the Lord’s sake.
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 October 26 — “Joy in the Journey” What’s the point of the daily grind?

- **Text:** Ecclesiastes 9:1–18
 - **RNM Big Idea:** Wisdom lets us enjoy each moment as a gift.
 - **Theme:** Expect both sorrow and joy—God is present in all.
 - **Key Verses:** 9:7–10 – Eat, drink, rejoice in your work—it’s your portion. Live your normal life well so others may see God... I Thessalonians. Work quietly...
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 November 2 — “Enjoy Life Well” What’s the point of happiness?

- **Text:** Ecclesiastes 10:1–11:10
 - **RNM Big Idea:** Wisdom prioritizes God’s way over our own.
 - **Theme:** Work hard, enjoy life, live wisely.
 - **Key Thought:** Don’t let work, pleasure, or foolishness rule your life.
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 November 9 — “The End of the Matter” What’s the point of it all?

- **Text:** Ecclesiastes 12:1–14
- **RNM Big Idea:** Real meaning is found in full submission to God.
- **Theme:** **Fear God. Keep His commands. That’s it.**
- **Key Verse:** 12:13 – “Fear God and keep His commandments...”
- **Cross-Ref:** Matthew 7:24–27 – Build your life on the Rock.