

Message Notes

Pastor Dave Gudgel

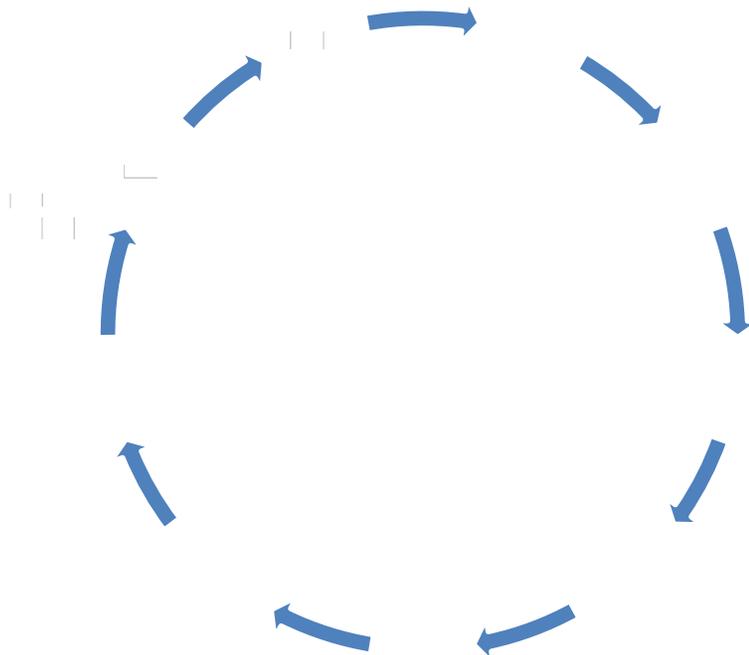
Date: March 5, 2017

Bible Focus: Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

Current Series: The Chase

Message Title: Man Without Meaning

Eccles 1:1-11 - The words of the Teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem: ² "Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher. "Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless." ³ What does man gain from all his labor at which he toils under the sun? ⁴ Generations come and generations go, but the earth remains forever. ⁵ The sun rises and the sun sets, and hurries back to where it rises. ⁶ The wind blows to the south and turns to the north; round and round it goes, ever returning on its course. ⁷ All streams flow into the sea, yet the sea is never full. To the place the streams come from, there they return again. ⁸ All things are wearisome, more than one can say. The eye never has enough of seeing, nor the ear its fill of hearing. ⁹ What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun. ¹⁰ Is there anything of which one can say, "Look! This is something new"? It was here already, long ago; it was here before our time. ¹¹ There is no remembrance of men of old, and even those who are yet to come will not be remembered by those who follow.



Questions for Reflection and Discussion

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

1. Can you think of a time in your life when you chased after something that ultimately didn't satisfy? What affects did that chase have on your life?
2. In what ways have you seen a person's mindset make their life better or worse? How have you benefitted or been hurt by both?
3. Talk through the nine characteristics of a meaningless mindset. In what ways do you identify, positively or negatively, with Solomon's learnings? Have you come to conclusions similar to his?
4. Why does a God-centered life bring meaning beyond a man-centered life (life under the sun)? In what ways is this meaningful life impacting you right now?
5. What does knowing Solomon walked out on God tell you?
6. Read through the Gudgels' "meaningful paraphrase" based on Ecclesiastes 1:1-11. How can this slant help you right now?

"Meaningful! Meaningful!" Says the teacher. "So meaningful! Everything is meaningful." When we walk with God, man is blessed through all his labor at which he toils under heaven, from generation to generation while the earth remains forever. The sun rises and sets, and hurries back to rise again to give us another day of life. God has set the wind to blow to the south and turn to the north; round and round it goes, ever returning on its course. All streams flow into the sea, yet the sea is never full! To the place the streams come from, there they return again. All things help us learn and grow, more than we can explain. There is always more for us to see and hear! What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; yet there is always something new under heaven for us to discover. If our eyes are open, we can say "Look! This is something new!" Though it was here already, long ago before our time, we can see it and know it now! Faithful, godly men of old are remembered long after they are gone, and even those who are yet to come will be remembered by those who follow.