

Life Under the Sun
Ecclesiastes 1:1-14

People today seem to be seeking _____ whenever possible, to avoid tedium at all costs. In Ecclesiastes, Solomon had a different word for tedium: _____. He says life is as purposeless and nonsensical as a _____.

Solomon used the phrase, “_____,” frequently. It means life as viewed from within, not from any other vantagepoint. Not from _____ perspective, but from a man’s perspective.

These verses catalog what makes life meaningless. First is the _____ of it. No matter how hard you try, nothing changes. Additionally, life’s longings are _____. There is never enough seeing or hearing. We can’t get _____. Furthermore, life’s pursuits are _____. New stuff isn’t new for long. The new _____ of possessions, experiences, skills, and becomes monotony and boredom. Finally, our sense of meaninglessness is exacerbated by our _____. He laments, “No one remembers former generations.” Genealogical research has become popular in part as a _____ from our own insignificance.

Not all verses or chapters or even books in the Bible give answers. Sometimes they help us _____. That’s what is going on in Ecclesiastes. Solomon attempted to deal with meaninglessness through pursuing wisdom, pleasure and possessions, career, money. Everything _____. If you are hoping to _____ and turn your sense of futility and dissatisfaction and boredom and insignificance into _____, you won’t find any of those options useful.

In *Mere Christianity*, C. S. Lewis described the human condition this way: Human history is “the long terrible story of man trying to find something other than _____ which will make him happy.” Here is why this doesn’t work: “God cannot give us a happiness and peace _____, because it is not there. There is no such thing.” Maybe today we can stop trying to find happiness without God’s touch. When stuck in the doldrums, may we invite the wind of _____ to fill our sails instead.