

Your Life Matters

By DAVID H. MCKINLEY

"For all sad words of tongue or pen, the saddest are those, 'It might have been.'"

—John Greenleaf Whittier

"Vanity of vanities," says the Preacher; "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity." —Ecclesiastes 1:2

Make your life **C-O-U-N-T**:

Consider the End from the Beginning

³What profit has a man from all his labor in which he toils under the sun? ⁴One generation passes away, and another generation comes; but the earth abides forever. ⁵The sun also rises, and the sun goes down, and hastens to the place where it arose. ⁶The wind goes toward the south, and turns around to the north; the wind whirls about continually, and comes again on its circuit. ⁷All the rivers run into the sea, yet the sea is not full; to the place from which the rivers come, there they return again. ⁸All things are full of labor; man cannot express it. The eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing. ⁹That which has been is what will be, that which is done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun. ¹⁰Is there anything of which it may be said, "See, this is new?" It has already been in ancient times before us. —Ecclesiastes 1:3-10

"Life is absurd. We have no real purpose because there is no life beyond our days on earth, which themselves are filled with meaningless suffering. The only meaning to be found is heroically enduring the absurdity of it all and finding joy in the hollow emptiness of life." —Albert Camus

Observe the Experience of the Experienced

¹³And I set my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all that is done under heaven; this burdensome task God has given to the sons

of man, by which they may be exercised. ¹⁴I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind.

—Ecclesiastes 1:13-14

Unlock the Secret to the Unlimited

There is a repeated phrase used throughout the book of Ecclesiastes: "under the sun."

"The meager satisfaction that a man can extract from reality leaves him starving." —Sigmund Freud

Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before the difficult days come, and the years draw near when you say, "I have no pleasure in them." —Ecclesiastes 12:1

Navigate from a New Reference Point

¹³Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all. ¹⁴For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil. —Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

"Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty man glory in his might, nor let the rich man glory in his riches; ²⁴but let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the LORD.

—Jeremiah 9:23-24

"There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every man which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God, the Creator, made known through Jesus." —Blaise Pascal

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." —John 14:6

Take the Road Less Traveled

If you want your life to matter, respond to the truth.

Solomon's conclusion? Your life will matter when you live for the God who made you!