



Series: Living Life Backward

Sermon: Part 1: Let's Pretend

Date: Sunday, May 7th, 2023

If we can have a proper perspective of death, we can actually end up having a proper perspective about life.

Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. (Ecclesiastes 1:2)

Hebel: Hebrew word meaning “_____” or “_____”

Man is like a breath; his days are like a passing shadow. (Psalm 144:4)

If God does not matter then everything of who we are and what we do is a vapor and is _____.

What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun? (Ecclesiastes 1:3)

“*Toiling under the sun*”: Working and living in a material world, without _____, without an eternal perspective

A generation goes, and a generation comes, but the Earth remains forever. The sun rises, and the sun goes down, and hastens to the place where it rises. The wind blows to the south and goes around to the north; around and around goes the wind, and on its circuits the wind returns. All streams run to the sea, but the sea is not full; to the place where the streams flow, there they flow again. All things are full of weariness; a man cannot utter it; the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing. What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun. Is there a thing of which it is said, “See, this is new”? It has been already in the ages before us. There is no remembrance of former things, nor will there be any remembrance of later things yet to be among those who come after. I the Preacher have been king over Israel in Jerusalem. And I applied my heart to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under Heaven. It is an unhappy business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. I have seen everything that is done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind. (Ecclesiastes 1:4-14)

Searching for answers and meaning without God is _____.



What is crooked cannot be straightened; what is lacking cannot be counted. I said to myself, “Look, I have increased in wisdom more than anyone who has ruled over Jerusalem before me; I have experienced much of wisdom and knowledge.” Then I applied myself to the understanding of wisdom, and also of madness and folly, but I learned that this, too, is a chasing after the wind. For with much wisdom comes much sorrow; the more knowledge, the more grief. (Ecclesiastes 1:15-18)

- 1. Human wisdom**
- 2. Godly wisdom**

Even followers of Jesus are still subject to the temptation to seek wisdom apart from God, to seek satisfaction apart from God, and to try to live life like we will all be here forever on Earth.

Knowing that we won’t live forever on this Earth and that time is short, then how shall we live?

- 1. Accept that we are going to die**
- 2. Realize how much energy we devote to not accepting this reality**

- a. Understanding that we have limits*
- b. Understanding that we are finite*
- c. Understanding that we are not God*

- d. Understanding that we are not in control*
- e. Understanding that we will not live forever on Earth*

Bottom Line: *Knowing God and knowing this reality with life and death can teach us how to truly live in light of all that is present.*

Questions to reflect on this week or with others:

- 1. How comfortable are you when it comes to talking about death? Why?
- 2. Why is it that it is only when we can understand death that we can truly understand how to live in light of it?
- 3. How do you think of your life differently knowing that it is only a breath or vapor?
- 4. Was there something in life that you wanted so badly, only to find that after receiving it, that you were still not satisfied?

Songs used in service: Good Good Father (Chris Tomlin), Redeemed (Big Daddy Weave), Revelation Song (Kari Jobe), Build My Life (Pat Barrett)

-----Tear Here -----

Any prayer requests?

Name: _____ **Email (so we can follow up):** _____

What can we be praying for you about?