

# Meaning



**Life is essential, so  
make every day count**



**Life is beautiful, so be  
kind to everyone and  
treat them as you would  
like to be treated**



**Life is challenging, so  
pray**



# What brings meaning to life?



# **Ecclesiastes 1:1-9 (NIV)**

**<sup>1</sup> The words of the  
Teacher, son of David,  
king in Jerusalem:**



**2 “Meaningless!  
Meaningless!”  
says the Teacher.  
“Utterly meaningless!  
Everything is  
meaningless.”**



**<sup>3</sup> What do people gain  
from all their labors  
at which they toil  
under the sun?**

**<sup>4</sup> Generations come and  
generations go,  
but the earth remains  
forever.**





**<sup>5</sup> The sun rises and the sun sets, and hurries back to where it rises.**

**<sup>6</sup> 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.**



# **Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 (MSG)**

**1-3 I said to myself,  
“Let’s go for it—  
experiment with  
pleasure, have a good  
time!” But there was  
nothing to it, nothing  
but smoke.**



**What do I think of the  
fun-filled life? Insane!  
Inane!**

**My verdict on the  
pursuit of happiness?  
Who needs it?**



**With the help of a bottle  
of wine and all the  
wisdom I could muster,  
I tried my level best to  
penetrate the absurdity  
of life.**



**I wanted to get a  
handle on anything  
useful we mortals might  
do during the years we  
spend on this earth.**





**4-8 Oh, I did great things:  
built houses, planted  
vineyards, designed  
gardens and parks and  
planted a variety of fruit  
trees in them, made  
pools of water to irrigate  
the groves of trees.**



**I bought slaves, male and female, who had children, giving me even more slaves; then I acquired large herds and flocks, larger than any before me in Jerusalem.**



**I piled up silver and  
gold, loot from kings  
and kingdoms. I  
gathered a chorus of  
singers to entertain me  
with song, and—most  
exquisite of all  
pleasures— voluptuous  
maidens for my bed.**



**9-10 Oh, how I  
prospered! I left all my  
predecessors in  
Jerusalem far behind,  
left them behind in the  
dust. What's more, I  
kept a clear head  
through it all.**



**Everything I wanted I took—I never said no to myself. I gave in to every impulse, held back nothing. I sucked the marrow of pleasure out of every task—my reward to myself for a hard day's work!**



**11 Then I took a good  
look at everything I'd  
done, looked at all the  
sweat and hard work.**



**But when I looked, I  
saw nothing but smoke.  
Smoke and spitting into  
the wind. There was  
nothing to any of it.  
Nothing.**



**Matthew 16:24-26 (NIV)**  
**24 Then Jesus said to His  
disciples, "Whoever  
wants to be My disciple  
must deny themselves  
and take up their cross  
and follow Me.**





**25 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for Me will find it.**



**26 What good will it be  
for someone to gain the  
whole world, yet forfeit  
their soul? Or what can  
anyone give in  
exchange for their soul?**



## **Romans 12:4-10 (MSG)**

**4-6 In this way we are like the various parts of a human body. Each part gets its meaning from the body as a whole, not the other way around.**



**The body we're talking about is Christ's body of chosen people. Each of us finds our meaning and function as a part of His body.**



**But as a chopped-off  
finger or cut-off toe we  
wouldn't amount to  
much, would we?**



**So since we find  
ourselves fashioned  
into all these excellently  
formed and marvelously  
functioning parts in  
Christ's body,**



**let's just go ahead and  
be what we were made  
to be, without enviously  
or pridefully comparing  
ourselves with each  
other, or trying to be  
something we aren't.**



**6-8 If you preach, just  
preach God's Message,  
nothing else; if you  
help, just help, don't  
take over; if you teach,  
stick to your teaching;**





**if you give encouraging  
guidance, be careful  
that you don't get  
bossy; if you're put in  
charge, don't  
manipulate;**



**if you're called to give  
aid to people in  
distress, keep your eyes  
open and be quick to  
respond;**



**if you work with the  
disadvantaged, don't let  
yourself get irritated  
with them or depressed  
by them. Keep a smile  
on your face.**



**9-10 Love from the center of who you are; don't fake it. Run for dear life from evil; hold on for dear life to good. Be good friends who love deeply; practice playing second fiddle.**



## **Matthew 16:24-25 (NIV)**

**24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Me. 25 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for Me will find it.**



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