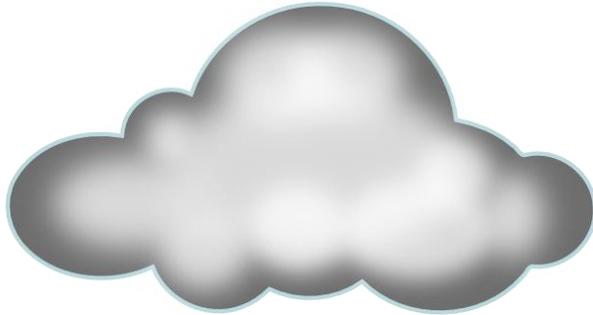


Ecclesiastes

How do I make sense of this life?



Introduction:

If we are looking for fulfillment in *life* itself, we're not going to find it. Life is full of frustration, trouble, and unanswerable questions. But with God as our Shepherd, we can learn to be content in the good times and in the bad. We can enjoy the gracious gifts our Heavenly Father gives. And we can learn valuable lessons through the challenges, while being prepared for our eternal home.

Conclusion:

Jesus is the Good Shepherd who laid down his life for his sheep and took it up again, conquering sin and death. With Jesus as our Good Shepherd, we can learn to be content regardless of our circumstances. We can praise him for the good we receive. And we can learn valuable lessons and store up eternal rewards through the challenge's life brings. In Jesus, we are assured there is meaning to a life lived for God. See **Romans 8:18-22**.

1. Everything is *smoke* "under the sun" (1:1-4,9).
2. "I can't get no satisfaction!" *under the sun*
 - a. Not through Wisdom (1:12-14,17,18)
 - b. Not through Pleasure (2:1,10,11)
 - c. Not through Legacy (2:15-17)
3. So, stop looking for it. *satisfaction...in this life*
 - a. Enjoy what God gives (2:24-26).
 - b. Accept God-ordained seasons (3:1,10,11-14).
4. "Life's not fair!" *under the sun*
 - a. People are confused (3:16).
 - b. People are oppressed (4:1-2).
 - c. People are alone (4:7-12).
 - d. People are fickle (4:13-16).
5. So, look to God (5:1,2,5,7).
 - a. Not politics (5:8)
 - b. Not riches (5:10,13-16)
6. Find meaning in life.
 - a. Learn valuable lessons (7:2,4,5,10,12,13).
 - b. Learn how to be content (7:14).
7. Have a realistic view of life. *There's a lot of...*
 - a. Injustice (8:10-13)
 - b. Questions (8:16-17)
 - c. Sin and death (9:2-3)
 - d. Things to do (9:7,9,10)
 - e. Surprises (9:11-12)
 - f. Things to be accountable for (11:9)
8. One thing is certain (12:1-8).
9. One thing is needed (12:9-14).