

how seemingly valuable—leads to emptiness.

Flip over to the end of Ecclesiastes, where you read this hopeful verse, "Remember your Creator in the days of your youth" (12:1), and this one, "Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man" (v.13).

Without God at the centre, life indeed lacks meaning. With Him there, it has purpose. Let's give meaning to every day, every class, every relationship by letting God be right in the middle of them all. —DB



#### REFLECTION

- What seems meaningless to me sometimes? Can I see the value by bringing God into the picture?
- When have I taken something that had little or no value and used it for God's glory? When can I?
- Do I know anyone whose life seems meaningless because he or she doesn't know Jesus? Should I talk to that person this week about it? Do I really know God? Who can I talk to?

**If you're looking for meaning, look to God.**

**'Dear God,**

**I know that I am not worthy to be called a child of God. I don't deserve your gift of eternal life. I am guilty of rebelling against you and ignoring you. I need your forgiveness.**

**I want to turn from living my life my own way. I believe that Jesus died for me and rose again to give me new life. I now acknowledge Jesus as the ruler in my life.**

**Make me a member of Your family. Please help me to love You and serve You always.**

**Amen.'**

**Pastor:**

**Wayne Robilliard**

17 Woodland Ave, Hazelbrook

**Ph: 4758 8778.**

0404 804 778

*Please feel free to contact the Pastor for any needs you may have, queries, or questions about our church family.*

[www.mountainsbaptist.org.au](http://www.mountainsbaptist.org.au)

[4wayner@tpg.com.au](mailto:4wayner@tpg.com.au)

# Central Mountains Baptist Church

## 10 MARCH, 2013

### Meaningless!

If any of the Bible writers could have written a devotion for Uni students, I think King Solomon might have been the best candidate.

He must have spent some time in some of the classes I had at uni. Quoth the King, "Meaningless! Meaningless! Utterly meaningless. Everything is meaningless." I'm sure he was talking about the classes I attended.

If you take the time to read through the book of Ecclesiastes, the one in which Solomon wailed on about meaninglessness, you'll see that David's son had some issues. He was the wisest man in the world, but he found philosophy to be meaningless. He was richer than Bill Gates, but he said wealth was meaningless. He built more big buildings than Donald Trump (who?), but in the end he decided it was all . . . you know . . . meaningless.

On and on Solomon examined life—detailing enough meaningless items to make anyone miserable.

So, what's the point? If everything is so meaningless, where is the value of life?

Have you ever talked to someone who is well-educated but unhappy? Rich but sad? Talented but depressed? Beautiful but dejected?

What makes people this way? They have discovered the truth Solomon is describing: Life without God—no matter



# CONTENTMENT IS A GIFT



An ancient goad



An ancient nail



**(Proverbs 14:12)** "There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death."

**(Hebrews 13:20)** "... the God of peace ... brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, ..."

Solomon provokes us to find the way of contentment through three themes running through the book of Ecclesiastes:

**1. Think about \_\_\_\_\_**, 1:1, 3, 5, 13, 2:1, 3, 4, 8, 10-11, 14, 17, 20, 4:8, 5:8, 14, 7:7, 5:10, 6:3, 7, 9



**2. Know \_\_\_\_\_**, 7:20, 9:3, 3:16-20, 8:12-13, 11:9, 3:11, 14-15, 12:1, 6, 13-14,

**(Romans 6:23)** "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

**(Romans 10:9)** "... if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

**(2 Corinthians 5:15)** "and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again."



**(Revelation 3:20)**

""Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me."

**3. Accept the \_\_\_\_\_**, 9:2, 11, 2:24, 3:12-13, 5:18-19, 7:13-14

**(Philippians 4:11-12)** "Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: {12} I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need."

**(1 Timothy 6:8)** "And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content."

**(Hebrews 13:5)** "Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you.""

**(2 Corinthians 9:15)** "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!"

