

Ecclesiastes 7

Scripture Reading

What gives your life meaning?

- Making a difference? No. (ch. 1)
- Pleasure, Wisdom, Work? No. (ch. 2)
- Consider God's work! (ch. 3)
- Crusading for justice? No. (chs. 4-6)
- Attaining money or power? No. (chs. 4-6)
- Consider God's work! (ch. 7)

How to Live a Truly Meaningful Life with God at the Center

1. Live with your death in view (7:1-4).

Jonathan Edwards's Resolutions

7. Resolved, never to do anything, which I should be afraid to do, if it were the last hour of my life.

9. Resolved, to think much on all occasions of my own dying, and of the common circumstances which attend death.

17. Resolved, that I will live so as I shall wish I had done when I come to die.

52. I frequently hear persons in old age say how they would live, if they were to live their lives over again: resolved, that I will live just so as I can think I shall wish I had done, supposing I live to old age.

How to Live a Truly Meaningful Life with God at the Center

1. Live with your death in view (7:1-4).
2. Value wisdom, but don't expect too much from it (7:5-12).
3. Accept adversity from God just like you receive prosperity from him (7:13-14).
4. Avoid the pitfalls of both legalism and license (7:15-18).
5. Lower your expectations of other people; they're sinners just like you (7:19-29).

“If we could live with that kind of mindset,
wouldn't our lives in this broken world
be characterized by so much more
contentment, graciousness, and wonder?
We'd be much more shocked
by all the good that we enjoy
than by the many bad things that happen.”