

PCC

4.17.22

Catch Up

Spend some time catching up as a group. Use the following question as a guide:

- 1. What's something you're looking forward to this next week? What's something you have anxiety about this next week?**

Now transition to the main discussion by answering this question:

- 2. Thinking back on Sunday's teaching, what stood out as being particularly comforting, challenging, or confusing?**

Dive In

Have someone read [Ecclesiastes 1:1-11](#) and then discuss the following questions:

- 3. What would you say is the main idea of this text? What aspects of life did the Teacher point to as meaningless in these verses?**

- Among the aspects of life the Teacher found meaningless were work, nature, and wisdom. He makes it clear that it is our motives and expectations, rather than these things themselves, wherein the meaningless lies.
- The Teacher's goal is not to devalue things like work or wisdom, but rather to make clear that there is no firm foundation on earth on which we can find meaning and fulfillment.

- 4. Can you relate to any of these observations he made? If so, which ones?**

- *Hevel*, the Hebrew word for "futile," basically means "vapor" or "breath," but it comes to mean "vain," "transitory," or "futile." It does not necessarily mean that something is altogether worthless, but it implies that something is at best only of fleeting value.
- In the context of Ecclesiastes, it means that things done "under the sun" are only of temporary significance and therefore, set against eternity, they have no real value.

- 5. What is a part of life you have struggled to find meaning in lately?**

Now read [1 Corinthians 15:13-26](#) and discuss the following questions:

6. According to Paul, what does it mean for us today if there was no physical resurrection? How would this impact your life specifically? Put another way, how different would your life look if Jesus wasn't physically risen from the dead?

- According to Paul, without the physical resurrection of Christ, our faith and practice would fall apart. The gospel would be a myth, preaching the gospel would be useless, the apostles would be liars and witnesses even to their deaths, we would still be captive to our own flesh and sin unable and left to save ourselves, there is no life after death, our loved ones who have passed are gone forever, and we (Christians) are to be pitied above all other people.
- If God raised Christ from the dead, then Christ truly was the **firstfruits** (Ex. 23:19; Lev. 23:10; Deut. 18:4; Neh. 10:35) or the first of many others who would also be raised from the dead. (See also Rom. 8:29; 1 Cor. 15:23; Col. 1:18.) The term "firstfruits" (Gk. *aparchē*) refers to a first sample of an agricultural crop that indicates the nature and quality of the rest of the crop; therefore, Christ's resurrection body gives a foretaste of what those of believers will be like.

7. Also according to Paul, what does it mean for us that Christ did rise from the dead?

- If God raised Christ from the dead, then Christ truly was the *firstfruits* or the first of many others who would also be raised from the dead. The term *firstfruits* refers to a first sample of an agricultural crop that indicates the nature and quality of the rest of the crop; therefore, Christ's resurrection body gives a foretaste of what those of believers will be like.

8. In what ways can the resurrection give you hope in your day to day life, even in the midst of life feeling *hevel*?

9. Do you struggle believing in a literal and physical resurrection? Why do you think our faith hinges on this being literal and true?

Practice

Spend the last few minutes praying for and encouraging one another.