

Tuesday 28th July 2020

Ecclesiastes 1:2

"Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher.

'Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.'

Ecclesiastes 2:11

"Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve,

Everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun."

We enjoy fine food. We revel in holidays. We happily amass furniture, pictures and jewellery. We appreciate accolades and honours bestowed upon us for our good works. But does all this make us happy? Do we think our lives have meaning?

Solomon, son of David, King of Jerusalem had it all but towards the end of his life he became morose and pessimistic. We use the phrase 'the wisdom of Solomon' but he felt he had achieved little of importance. *"What is twisted cannot be straightened; what is lacking cannot be counted"* (Ecclesiastes 1:15) and *"For with much wisdom comes much sorrow: the more knowledge, the more grief"* (Ecclesiastes 1:18). He began to realise that all his wealth, possessions, honours and good reputation were meaningless without his commitment to God. Only his knowledge of, belief in and devotion to God and his ways made him happy. He tried to persuade people to look beyond their abilities and self-confidence to God for the ultimate meaning of the purpose of this transient life on earth.

There must be a message here for us. God does not want us to be miserable or not to enjoy our earthly lives but he does want us to realise that everything, good and bad, comes from Him. We can't do without Him. If we try life has no meaning: a chasing after the wind. So whilst enjoying our food, holidays and possessions let us above all praise, thank and believe in God for everything.