

LIFE EQUALS ? *from* SELECTED SCRIPTURES

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What is "living the life?" Whatever happiness truly is; whatever "living the life" really is, there are many people pursuing it and there are many people failing in that pursuit. Statistics estimate that there are nearly 20 million depressed people in America. That statistic is not surprising considering 35,000 Americans commit suicide every year. That is approximately 95 people a day.

In Ecclesiastes 1:1-2 we see the theme of the whole book. It is all vanity. The Hebrew word hebel – that is translated "vanity" is used 5x in this second verse of the chapter alone. It is repeated throughout the book. The word has the idea of "without real substance, without value, without permanence, significance or meaning." It can be translated as vapor, breath, wind. It gives the sense of something that has no advantage, nothing gained or as chasing after the wind.

So King Solomon nearing the end of his life starts off his "message to the assembly" with "it is all worthless, it is all meaning less." Wow. Talk about depressing! But wait a minute, what does he know anyway? What has he experienced? In the first two chapters of Ecclesiastes, Solomon is going to illustrate this overarching statement (that it is all vanity) by detailing for us at least six areas of life that do not bring happiness.

Outline:

Life does not equal _____.

Life does not equal _____.

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Life does not equal _____.

Life equals _____.