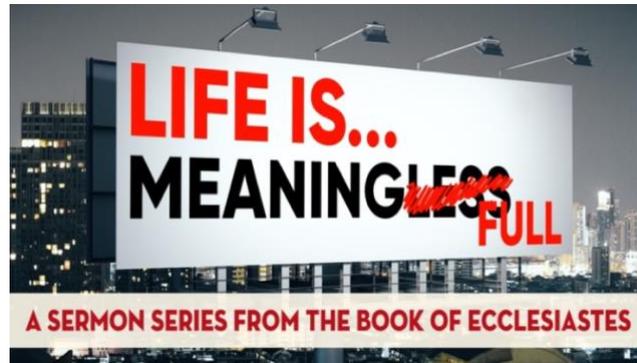


Listening Guide : "Life is Meaningful" #2 of 4
April 18, 2021 – 10: 30 a.m.
@roswellstreetbc – Marietta, Ga



Ecclesiastes 4 : 9 – 12

The book of Ecclesiastes is the memoirs of King Solomon detailing his search for meaning and significance. The conclusion of his search is "absolute futility." Life is meaningless "under the sun" without a relationship with the God who is "Above the sun." Solomon lived the classic life of a 'backslider' as one who drifted from an abiding relationship with the Lord.

In 4: 9 – 12, Solomon makes a wise discovery that Life's Meaning is full when engaged in meaningful relationships. Today's text has great relevance in light of the aloneness and isolation experienced through the global pandemic. See 4: 1, 7 of the further dilemma of aloneness.

The text guides us to increase relational closeness by this principle – **DON'T REACT, BUT RELATE** in turbulent times.

DON'T REACT - the following are Unproductive ways of REACTING:

- Facts, Reason, Logic
- Complaining
- Minimizing hurt
- Pep talk or Neglect.

RELATE by learning to express C-A-R-E :

C – _____ – see 1 Corinthians 12: 24 – 26

A – _____ – see Galatians 5: 13

R – _____ – see 1 John 3: 18

E – _____ – see 1 Thess. 5: 18

WORKING THE WORD CHALLENGES:

- The Challenge of today's sermon is DON'T REACT, BUT RELATE when experiencing turbulent times. Common unproductive reactions are : *sharing of facts, reason, logic; complaining; minimizing hurt; or a pep talk*. **Which is the most common reaction you have when trouble arises?**
- DISCUSS (with a partner) how increasing Relational Connections cause life to become meaningful. Using the acrostic C-A-R-E, share how aloneness can be removed and how relationships experience health in turbulent times.
- As you listen to the Lord, **WHO is the person who could benefit from your showing CARE?** Communicate with this person.
- Begin reading one chapter daily of the book of **2 Corinthians** today using the YouVersion Bible app - <https://bit.ly/32aN6Wr>