



Some Background

Psychologists and counselors report that their business skyrockets during November and December. One North American survey reported that 45% of respondents dread the time between Thanksgiving and the New Year saying that it is emotionally the darkest time of the year for them.

King Solomon went through some very dark times in his life even though he had everything the world says you need to be happy. The Scriptures tell us that Solomon was the wisest and richest man who ever lived. He had 700 wives and 300 concubines. He had everything and more that the world had to offer, yet he was absolutely miserable.

Here's what Solomon had to say about his life:

- **Life Seems** _____

So I came to hate life because everything done here under the sun is so troubling. Everything is meaningless—like chasing the wind. Ecclesiastes 2:17 (NLT)

- **Life Seems** _____

Life is useless, all useless. You spend your life working... and what do you have to show for it? ... The world stays just the same. Ecclesiastes 1:2-4 (TEV)

- **Life Seems** _____

The sun still rises, and it still goes down... ⁶The wind blows... round and round and back again. ⁷Every river flows into the sea [then] the water returns to where the rivers began, and starts all over again. ⁸Everything leads to weariness... Ecclesiastes 1:5-8 (TEV)

- **Life Seems** _____

No matter how much we see, we are never satisfied; no matter how much we hear, we are not content. History merely repeats itself. Ecclesiastes 1:8-9 (TLB)

Life's Biggest Questions

1. Why am I _____?

Why was I born? Was it only to have trouble and sorrow, to end my life in disgrace?

Jeremiah 20:18 (TEV)

The LORD has made everything for his own purposes...

Proverbs 16:4 (NLT)

2. Does my life _____?

O LORD, you have examined my heart and know everything about me. ²You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I'm far away.

You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁶You saw me before I was born... Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.

Psalms 139:1-2, 13, 16 (NLT)

3. What is my _____?

Why did you create us? For nothing?

Psalms 89:47 (NCV)

For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible... everything got started in him and finds its purpose in him.

Colossians 1:16 (MSG)

SO LIVE, SERVE and GIVE

Leave your impoverished confusion and live!

Walk up the street to a life with meaning.

Proverbs 9:6 (MSG)

How? Paul gives us a clue.

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (NIV)