

# Jesus is meaning.

**Ecclesiastes 12.8-14 & 1 Corinthians 1.24 & 30 / September 10, 2019**

**>> Our search for meaning discovers a whole bunch of dead-ends.**

**Ecclesiastes 12.8-14**

- Dead-ends discovered by Solomon:
  - Intelligence – Eccl 1.18
  - Pleasure – Eccl 2.10-11
  - Wisdom – Eccl 2.14-16
  - Work – Eccl 2.21-23
  - Power – Eccl 4.16-17
  - Goodness – Eccl 8.14
  - Talent – Eccl 9.11
  - Education – Eccl 12.12
  
- Solomon's final conclusion: *Fear God and obey his commands...everything else is meaningless.* [Ecclesiastes 12.8 & 13]

**>> God answers our search for meaning with the best idea he ever had — Jesus.**

**1 Corinthians 1.24.b & 1.30**

**THE MEANING JESUS BRINGS:**

**1/ CONNECTS us.** Righteousness / makes us right with God / And if right with God, then right with others / primary implication is justification

- Righteousness CONNECTS us with God through Jesus and then CONNECTS us with others through justice and faithful relationships.

**2/ Makes us SOAR.** Sanctification / makes us Christlike and equips us to serve / makes us faithful & fruitful

- SOAR means Jesus brings out the “best version of you” through sanctification.
  - 1 Thessalonians 5.23-24 -- *...may the God of peace make you whole in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until Jesus comes again. God will make this happen, for he who calls you is faithful.*

**3/ Frees us to THRIVE.** Redemption / frees us from sin / deliverance & freedom from sin, evil, brokenness

- Redemption/deliverance/freedom confronts our reality that there's stuff that holds us down and holds us back. What's holding you back?
- “Deliver us from evil” is a prayer to overcome sin and evil and brokenness – and to thrive!

Bottom line: Where in your life are you living beneath the level of meaning our good Father intends for you? That's a place where you can invite Jesus to bring meaning: Righteousness to Connect...Sanctification to Soar...Freedom to Thrive.

***For our benefit, God made Jesus to be wisdom... Christ makes us right with God, pure & holy, and free from sin.*** 1 Corinthians 1.30