

You Can't Find Meaning in Life Without God

Ecclesiastes 5:1-7

1. Approach God with a desire to obey. (v. 1)
 - a. Psalm 100:4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.
 - b. Psalm 95:2 Let us enter His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him in song.
 - c. Hosea 6:6 I want you to show love, not offer sacrifices. I want you to know me more than I want burnt offerings.
 - d. 1 Samuel 15:22 But Samuel declared: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obedience to His voice? Behold, obedience is better than sacrifice, and attentiveness is better than the fat of rams.
 - e. Psalm 50:7-15; Isaiah 1:11-20
 - f. James 1:22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.
 - g. Matthew 7:24 Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

2. Speak to God from a sincere heart. (vv. 2-3)
 - a. Isaiah 6
 - b. Matthew 12:34 You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.
 - c. Matthew 6:7-8 And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. 8Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.
 - d. Psalm 106:33 for they rebelled against the Spirit of God, and rash words came from Moses' lips.
 - e. Proverbs 10:19 When words are many, sin is unavoidable, but he who restrains his lips is wise.
 - f. Proverbs 29:20 Do you see someone who speaks in haste? There is more hope for a fool than for them.
 - g. Psalm 19:14 May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

3. Be faithful to God by keeping your word. (vv. 4-7)
 - a. Deuteronomy 23:21-23 If you make a vow to the Lord your God, do not be slow to pay it, for the Lord your God will certainly demand it of you and you will be guilty of sin. 22 But if you refrain from making a vow, you will not be guilty. 23 Whatever your lips utter you must be sure to do, because you made your vow freely to the Lord your God with your own mouth.
 - b. Psalm 76:11 Make vows to the LORD your God and fulfill them; let all the neighboring lands bring gifts to the One to be feared.
 - c. Matthew 5:33-37
 - d. James 5:12 But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.
 - e. Psalm 15:4 ...who keeps an oath even when it hurts, and does not change their mind;
 - f. 1 Corinthians 4:2 Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

LOOKING AT LIFE BEYOND THE SUN:

- We would agree with everything Solomon has said.
- Our approach to God is brought into greater light through Jesus.
 - Jesus reveals God to us.
 - John 1:18 No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.
 - Jesus obeyed and offered a superior sacrifice. Both enable us to draw near to God.
 - Romans 5:19 For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.
 - Hebrews 10:4-10, 19-22
 - We approach God in prayer with confidence because of Jesus.
 - Hebrews 4:16 Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.
 - John 16:23-27
 - Because we are right with God through Jesus, we serve God joyfully.
 - Matthew 25:14-30