

## FINDING MEANING IN THE NEW YEAR

Finding God, 3/10/24

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

### I. What Is a Meaningful Life?

1. It is not success
2. It is not accomplishing all your goals
3. It is not doing everything you've always wanted to do
4. It is feeling that your life is worthwhile
5. It is feeling that your life has value, significance, and has been useful
6. It is having an attitude that you are valuable and important

### II. What is the Right Way to Find Meaning in Life?

- True wisdom comes from God, so ask him for it
- True happiness comes from experiencing the blessedness Jesus taught in the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12)
- Use the limited amount of time we have to engage in activities that are most meaningful and satisfying to you
- It's important to have a strong social support network
- Learn to be content by accepting things the way they are
- Enjoy life by doing those things you most enjoy doing
- Seek God – God is the ultimate source of meaning and purpose

### II. Finding God

1. Contemplate the awesomeness of God
2. We have the ability to connect with God
3. Live with a conscious awareness that God is with you always
4. Understand God's purpose for your life – to love him and love your neighbor
5. Pursue God like you would pursue anything you really want

*As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.  
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. (Psalm 42:1-2)*

## SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 – The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God, and keep his commandments, for that is the whole duty of everyone. <sup>14</sup>For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.

Matthew 5:1-12 - When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup>“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup>“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup>“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup>“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup>“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup>“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup>“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup>“Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup>“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

QUOTES from A.W. Tozer (*The Pursuit of God*):

“God formed us for his pleasure, and so formed us that we, as well as He, can, in divine communion, enjoy the sweet and mysterious mingling of kindred personalities. He meant us to see Him and live with Him and draw our life from His smile.”

“God wills that we should push on into His presence and live our whole life there. This is to be known to us in conscious experience... It is a life to be enjoyed every moment of every day.”