

### Is Life Worth Enjoying?

Ecclesiastes begins, “Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity” (1:2). The Hebrew word translated as “vanity” is *hebel*, which literally means *smoke, breath, or vapor*.

The Psalmist spoke, “for my days pass away like a smoke” (Psalm 102:3). Job affirmed, “Remember that my life is a breath...” (Job 7:7). James reminds us, “You are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes” (James 4:14).

Way back in the beginning of the Bible, *hebel* is personified. Abel’s name in Hebrew is fittingly *hebel*. In Genesis 4, Abel’s young life was unjustly stolen from him. He was a vapor.

Read through the book of Ecclesiastes, and you’ll find *hebel* everywhere. Wealth is a smoke. Work is a breath. Wisdom is a vapor. Life is fleeting. If all is *hebel*, is life worth enjoying? Should we resign ourselves to gloom until we are taken up into heaven?

The blunt wisdom of Ecclesiastes offers joy more profound than we may often realize. Ecclesiastes 11:9 says, “Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth. Walk in the ways of your heart and the sight of your eyes. But know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment.”

Matt Cook draws good application from this verse for people of every age: “*Embrace and enjoy life as a gift from your creator*. Meaninglessness invades every pursuit if life is not rooted in a relationship with and obedience to God. This however does not mean that we are destined to a drudgery of an existence of slavish obedience to a taskmaster of a God. No, this God has graciously gifted us a beautiful world with countless blessings to explore and enjoy. Paul described this God as the one ‘who richly provides us with everything to enjoy’ (1 Tim 6:17)... The preacher challenges to enjoy those blessings wisely and responsibly.”

Life is a smoke, a breath, and a vapor. Ultimately, this means we should urgently fear God and keep his commandments (Eccl. 12:13). As well, this means we must enjoy the good things God has given us while we can. David Powell affirms this truth with four applications from Ecclesiastes 9:

1. Eat every meal as if at a banquet (9:7).
2. Celebrate every day as if at a party (9:8).
3. Enjoy marriage as if on your honeymoon (9:9).
4. Work as if it were your last day (9:10).

I want to add a fifth application to this list from Ecclesiastes 11:7:

5. Bask in the sun every day it shines.

Life is short. Live for God and love the good life he has given you.

*Caleb Boggs*

Burleson, Doug et al. *Encountering Ecclesiastes: Finding Meaning in a Meaningless World*. FHU Press, 2021.

#### Elders

John Deffenbaugh  
Benny Haught  
Tim Murray  
Bill Reiboldt

#### Deacons

Jason Bryan  
Carl Cobb  
Charles Collinsworth  
Barry Flint  
Casey Flint  
Jason Giebler  
Josh King  
Mike Kidwell  
Darren Pierce  
Bryan Reiboldt  
Jim Scott  
Peter Wald

#### Preacher

Danny Boggs

#### Youth & Family Minister

Caleb Boggs

#### Worship Assemblies

10 a.m. Sunday  
6 p.m. Sunday

#### Bible Classes

9 a.m. Sunday  
7 p.m. Wednesday

#### Phone

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#### Website

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Kay Anderson, Carol Bessman, Fred and Carolyn Bukowich, Joyce Clarkson, Vera Cornell, Lee Crabtree, Joe and Teresa Freund, Ervin Hill, Gaele Jackson, Molly Jackson, Millie Lyons, Pam McMahan, Marilyn Mayben, Sherry Merrill, Foy O'Neil, Charlie Phillips, Mebyl Privett, Tina Rasbury, Bryan Reiboldt, Rylee Schroeder, Edith Toney.

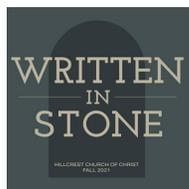
- **Nathan Honeycutt**, son of Glen and Karen, will have a heart procedure done on Tuesday in Kansas City.
- John Randell, son of Laura Black, who is a frequent visitor, is in the hospital in OK with Covid. He has pneumonia, is on oxygen, and has other health problems.
- **Lawrence Sanders** is recovering at home.



**Every "One" Counts:** When you give an extra dollar each Sunday, it goes to help someone in need. This week we helped a

family whose child is having surgery. If you know someone who needs help, please contact Jennifer Daniels or Natalie McInturff.

If you are not able to be at church, continue to visit our Facebook page, website or YouTube channel to see or hear our services **online**. Services will be at 10:00 am and 6:00 pm on Sundays and 7:00 pm on Wednesdays.



You may pick up your devotional book for the **Ten Commandments** in the back of the auditorium. We will begin reading them on Monday, September 6. Discussion groups will begin Sunday evening, September 12. Extra books are available so invite others.

Please sign the birthday card on the welcome desk for a child at Fair Haven.

## Today's Sermons

A.M. *Why Did God Ever Tell Anyone What to Do?*  
(Danny Boggs)

P.M. *Unity in Practice*  
(Caleb Boggs)



The **wedding shower/fellowship** meal for Cheyenne Black and Ethan Murray is today after morning services. There will be a money tree if you wish to contribute.

**Men's Breakfast** is Thursday at 7:00 at Braum's. Meet your brothers for food and fellowship.

**H.O.P.E. group** was postponed until this Thursday at 6:00 at David and Julia Fehring's home.

**Lads 2 Leaders:** It's time to start preparing for the 2022 Convention! This year's theme is, "Be Strong and Courageous." The Bible Bowl study will be over the book of Joshua. If you still have last year's Bible Bowl study binders, please return them to the office to be recycled. Start working on your speeches at home, and stay tuned for more information!

Jean Johnson will be turning 90 and you are invited to a **birthday celebration** in her honor. It will be this Saturday, from 2:00-4:00 at the Carthage Church of Christ.

You are invited to a **50th wedding anniversary celebration** for Lowell and Twyla McInturff next Sunday, from 2:00 - 4:00 at Hidden Grace, 11936 Hammer Road, Neosho. Omission of gifts is requested. Their anniversary is on Sept. 3.

**Week 2 Weekend** at Green Valley Bible Camp will be October 1-3. This retreat is for everyone in 5th -12th grades. Registration cost is \$30. Join us for a weekend immersed in a Bible study of the "Called Out!" Register online by September 26. at [neoshochurchofchrist.org/week-two-weekend-register/](http://neoshochurchofchrist.org/week-two-weekend-register/).

The new quarter begins next Sunday. Join one of the following **adult classes:**

### Sunday Morning

*Revelation* - Auditorium

Bill Reiboldt and Pat Andrews

*Joshua* - Room 29

John Deffenbaugh and Glen Honeycutt

*Touching on the Ten Commandments* - Fellowship Room

Danny Boggs

### Wednesday Night

*Romans* - Auditorium

Josh King

*Church Reset* - Fellowship Room

Jason Giebler and Casey Flint

*Rylee Schroeder graduated this year! We have been praying for her and her battle with cancer. She sent a graduation card with a thank you for the support and prayers that helped her reach this milestone. It is on the bulletin board.*

### WORSHIP LEADERS

#### Today

AM Opening Prayer: Tim Murray  
AM Closing Prayer: Charles Phillips  
Communion Prayers: Todd Murray

PM Opening Prayer: Bryan Reiboldt  
PM Closing Prayer: Kaed Thomas

#### This Wednesday

Announcements: Bill Reiboldt  
Singing: Darren Pierce  
Invitation: Bob Murray

Opening Prayer: Matt Hayes  
Closing Prayer: Caleb Boggs

### RECORDS

#### 8-22-21

#### 8-23-20

Bible Study	151	online
AM Worship	199	
PM Worship	130	
Wednesday	131	
Contribution	\$10,243.37	\$5,923.72
Budget	\$8,000.00	\$7,864.15