



Welcome to Sierra Community Church

"Be still, and know that I am God" -Psalm 46:10



A Public Faith

Sharing the Hope That's Within



MOBY DICK HERMAN MELVILLE

"Ecclesiastes is the truest book in the world"

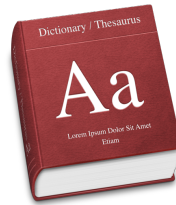
-Chapter 96 Herman Melville



Turn! Turn! Turn! THE BYRDS

Turn! Turn! Turn!
It Won't Be Wrong
Satisfied Mind
Wait and See
Lay Down Your Weary Tune
Set You Free This Time
The Times They Are A-Changin'
The World Turns All Around Her
Oh! Susannah
If You're Gone
He Was a Friend of Mine

secular: From the Latin word saeculum, which means the “present”.



The author of Ecclesiastes is saying, ***“I considered life here on earth without regard to eternity or God. Well, there may be a God or not, but we have to find our comfort here. We have to find our happiness here. We have to find our meaning right here in this life. This is life under the sun.”*** -Tim Keller “The Sickness unto Death” July 21st, 2014.

I pity celebrities, no I really do – Sylvester Stallone, Bruce Willis, and Barbara Streisand, were once perfectly pleasant human beings. But now their wrath is awful. I think when God wants to play a really rotten practical joke on you he grants you your deepest wish and then laughs merrily when you realize you want to kill yourself. You see Sly, Bruce, and Barbara wanted fame.

They worked, they pushed... ***because that giant thing they were striving for, that fame thing that was going to make everything OK, that was going to make their lives bearable, that was going to provide them with personal fulfillment and happiness*** had happened and they were still them. The disillusionment turned them howling and insufferable. Cynthia Heimel, “Tongue in” column in The Village Voice, January 2, 1990.



Solomon’s three experiments in search of a meaningful life.

#1 Living for Pleasure.

Ecclesiastes 2:1&10 I thought in my heart, “Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good. I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused my heart no pleasure.”

Solomon’s three experiments in search of a meaningful life.

“EVERYTHING WAS MEANINGLESS!”

#1 Living for Pleasure.

A CHASING AFTER THE WIND,”

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 I thought in my heart, “Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good. I denied myself nothing my eyes desired;

Solomon's three experiments in search of a meaningful life.

#2 Living to leave a legacy.

Ecclesiastes 2:18 "I hated all the things I had toiled for under the sun, because I must leave them to the one who comes after me."

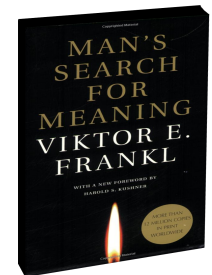
Solomon's three experiments in search of a meaningful life.

#3 Gaining Wisdom.

Ecclesiastes 2:16 "For the wise man, like the fool, will not be long remembered; in days to come both will be forgotten. Like the fool, the wise man too must die!"

The underlining diagnosis of these experiments and Solomon's search for meaning is that cannot be the creation of your own design.

"Frankl concluded that the difference between those who had lived and those who had died came down to one thing: *Meaning.*"



Solomon's solution for experiencing a meaningful life.

Ecclesiastes 2:24-26 There is nothing better for people than to eat and drink and to find enjoyment in their work. I also perceived that this ability to find enjoyment comes from God. ²⁵ For no one can eat and drink or experience joy apart from him. ²⁶ For to the one who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge, and joy.



Robertson McQuilkin

**President of Colombia
International University**



McQuilkin explained his decision:
When the time came, the decision was firm. It took no great calculation. It was a matter of ***integrity***. Had I not promised, 42 years before, "in sickness and in health . . . till death do us part"? and in the end ***I don't have to care for her, I get to.***



Robertson McQuilkin

God demonstrates the kind of loving commitment that leads to a meaningful life.

**This is how we know
what love is: *Jesus Christ
laid down his life for us.***

-1John 3:16