

“Dust In the Wind”
Ecclesiastes 1:12-14
Drake Hunter - January 13, 2019

Lord, we are so grateful for LIFE, and we ask for understanding as we figure out how to live out your meaningful Ways under the Sun. May we focus on living Life through Jesus, so we can experience your Greatness and Goodness. We now submit to your truth and Spirit; in Jesus name, Amen!

Last week we began our yearlong series, “L.I.F.E. ROCK ON!” and our goal in 2019 is to give understanding of what “Integrity” is within the Christian LIFE, and how to live it out.

Each week we are using a “Classic Rock” song as our theme to uncover some powerful truths in the Bible! This week, an extremely popular rock tune from the band, Kansas, and the message this morning, “Dust In the Wind.” Read with me...

Ecclesiastes 1:12-14

I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³I applied my mind to study and to explore by wisdom all that is done under the heavens. What a heavy burden God has laid on mankind! ¹⁴I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind

One of the most philosophical, theological, and biological question a person can ask is, “What is the meaning of LIFE? Is there meaning, or, is it all meaningless as Ecclesiastes 1:12-14 expresses.

Unfortunately, when a person is closed minded - that is someone who holds to cherish beliefs rather than true beliefs, both inside or outside the church – the truth of the matter is, no matter how smart or clever they may be, sadly, their conclusion about life, “Life is nothing more than ‘Dust In the Wind.’”

"Dust in the Wind", as I shared, is a song recorded by the rock band Kansas and was written by one of their band members. The song was first released in 1977 on the album “Point of Know Return”. Now, Here is a very interesting aspect of the song. The title of the song “Dust In the Wind” is a Bible reference, paraphrasing the last verse we just read in our introductory verses.

Ecclesiastes 1:14

I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

Listening to the lyrics of the song and reading **most** of the Book of Ecclesiastes, one would understand why a person would come to a conclusion that life is meaningless and nothing more than “Dust In The Wind”. Subjectively speaking, independently speaking, within our own understand, like the conclusion of this song, life is nothing more than “Dust In The Wind”.

However; isn't it nice our influence or our authority, in life, doesn't reside, in a song or “somewhat” reading Ecclesiastes, but it lies in the full true and meaningful word of God? When we fully examine the Book of Ecclesiastes, in the bible, unlike the song, there is a clear interpretation of the direction to go to understand the meaning of LIFE. But I'll get to that momentarily.

Now, one reason the song, “Dust In The Wind” stays popular within the contemporary pop scene is because the song's lyrical theme gives attention to mortality and the certainty of death. Which, we all will experience one day, and we experience on a day-to-day basis, if not directly, indirectly.

Let me share a personal story to help you understand what I mean by directly or indirectly. And, let's say, this story involves a publisher of a local newspaper, the death of a good friend, and a broken-hearted little child.

Last year when Lilly was visiting us during the Christmas season, I was sitting at my home desk where, suddenly, Lilly, with wet hair, and shivering from a bath she just took, runs down the stairs from the bathroom to my office, yelling, "Oscar is dead - Oscar is dead - Oscar is dead!" Then, she runs into my arms, and with big tears in her eyes, she looks at me and says, "Papa, Oscar's dead."

Of course, my heart sank, and I melted. Why? Because I too, knew Oscar, and the meaning of Oscar to Lilly. Now I'm amidst the thoughts of death within the mind of five-year-old little girl, who's now sobbing in my arms.

Now, you might be wondering "Who is in the world is Oscar?" Well...Oscar was a good friend of Lilly-pads. But, understand this, Oscar had a good and wonderful and long life, a long life for a "Fly" that is. Oscar was a "Fly", and for several months, even though a fly has a life span of three weeks, Oscar was Lilly's good friend for nearly four months - it's amazing how Oscar cloned himself.

Oscar came into our life because of my good friend, Brian, you might know him as the publisher of our local newspaper. One summer day, Brain approaches Lilly who is sitting in my van laughing at the fly infuriating papa. Brain, when he approaches her, says, "Lilly do you see that fly irritating Papa? "Yes!", Lilly replies! "He is a good friend of mine". Brian then asks, "Will you do me a big favor." Again, Lilly says, "Yes!", "Will you take care of my friend flying around Papa's head?" Again, with passion, Lilly says, "Yes!" Brian, then says, "Make sure Papa doesn't hurt my friend - okay?". Of course, Lilly complies, wholeheartedly, and then she asks Brian, one final question, "Mr. Brian, What's your friend's name?". Then Brain says something that changes my life forever. Brian, says, "His name is Oscar."

For nearly, four months, while Lilly was with me, Papa could no longer kill all the Oscars flying around his head or in his life. And I swear, one time, Oscar and all his buddies, intentionally, flew by me, in military fashion, looked straight into my eyes, and simultaneously they all stuck their toughs out at me to let me know, I now longer had the power of death over their lives.

Back to the little girl now in my arms with big tears in her eyes and asking, "Papa, why did Oscar" and in the same breath, "Why Did your Papa have to die?" Thank you, Brian! At this point, I thought, "Well, this is as good a time as ever to open up to a five-year-old little girl about the meaning of life, and to her help her get through this very traumatic time of losing her good friend, "Oscar".

We are all effected by death directly or indirectly and because of this we are all provoked by death and , sooner or later, to ask the question, "Is there more to life "under the sun", or are we, like the song "Dust In The Wind" and, are we like what the Bible suggest, in verses like..

Genesis 3:19

"...for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return."

Ecclesiastes 3:20

"All go to one place. All are from the dust, and to dust all return."

It's seems all hope is gone.

Now, if this really be the case, where people rely on their feelings, personal interpretations, and own experiences, then it only makes sense why the conclusion of the matter would be "We are nothing more than 'Dust In The Wind'". If this be the case, then let just all eat Ben and Jerry's ice cream, drink until we vomit, and be marry, for tomorrow we die, just like "Oscar", and my Papa.

It's interesting, even on the other side of the spectrum of church, science, when asking the big question of life, "Is there purpose and meaning in life?" the so-called sceptics even reason God. For

example, the British philosopher, Bertrand Russell, who described himself as an atheist, said, "Unless you assume a God, the question of the purpose of life is meaningless."

In other words, if there is no God, there is no grand scheme or significance to anything. If there is no God, your birth was an accident. If there is no God, there is no right or wrong and no Heaven or Hell. You simply represent nothing more than "Dust In The Wind" and life is meaningless. Bummer!

Now, let's turn to LIFE's influence and our authority to conclude the matter, the matter if we are just "Dust In the Wind" or if we have means to understand life. Back to the book of the Bible where we started our message, the book of Ecclesiastes.

Now, if you have read the book of Ecclesiastes all the way through, then you know how intensely King Solomon, the writer of the book, uses the word meaningless. He recites it 35 times.

The wisest person to ever live, according to many secular and spiritual scholars, over and over and over again says, "Life is Meaningless!" and for nearly 12 chapters, through a **philosophical** discussion, life is completely dark, empty, nothing to show, and completely meaningless. Nothing more than "Dust In The Wind!", and I encourage you to read it, but read it all the way through.

Now, here is the conclusion of the matter, from the wisest person ever to live, outside of Jesus. King Solomon says, "Rather than living life doing things man's ways - fearing man, following their broken ways, and despising one another, (keeping to cherish beliefs), which is meaningless, live life to the fullest fearing God and living out his "true beliefs".

Ecclesiastes 12:13

*Now all has been heard;
here is the conclusion of the matter:
Fear God and keep his commandments,
for this is the duty of all mankind.*

The Message: "Dust in The Wind". If you took in the message today, say, "Amen!"

Before we wrap things up...let me ask you a vital question. If your heart stopped beating in the next few minutes are you at peace with God? Do you know where you would spend eternity? If not, I would love the opportunity to pray with you. I'm not here to condemn anybody, rather, to help you find a new beginning. And, I know, that comes through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Won't you pray with me today. Just say...

*Lord Jesus, I repent of my sins. Come into my heart. Wash me clean. I make
you my Lord and Savior.*

Friend, if you prayed that simple prayer, we believe you're "Born Again". The scripture says, "Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." That's just what you did. Now, I encourage you to keep God first place in your life. Get a Bible. Read it every day, and you can start in one of the gospels, like John. Then, just learn to pray. Prayer is simply talking to God. You don't need some formal long words. Just talk to God like you would talk to a Friend.

I believe today is going to be a new beginning in your life. Write it down in your Bible. It's going to be a new day of victory for You.