



☒ “All of this is great, but now what?”

“So I became greater than all who had lived in Jerusalem before me, and my wisdom never failed me. Anything I wanted, I would take. I denied myself no pleasure. I even found great pleasure in hard work, a reward for all my labors. But as I looked at everything I had worked so hard to accomplish, it was all so meaningless—like chasing the wind. There was nothing really worthwhile anywhere.”

King Solomon | Ecclesiastes 2:9-11 (NLT)

“There’s got to be more to life than this!”

I’d just reviewed my life’s checklist. Good career, happy family, secure future... I’d checked all the “proper” boxes, but something wasn’t right...

"All of this is great, but now what?"

"Come close to God, and God will come close to you." (James 4:8)

I felt led to fervently seek God for answers. Over the next two years, he upended my life, clarified who he made me to be, gave me my Mission, and launched me into the adventure of my life. I've experienced meaning ever since.

I met a successful guy in his mid-thirties. He too was searching for meaning. Not yet a Follower, he rattled off where he stood on his checklist: Undergrad degree, law degree, good job, married, two kids, house... "All of this is great, but now what?" It opened a fantastic conversation.

I remember hearing an interview with Dennis Rainey, founder of Family Life. While at college, someone asked him what he wanted to be when he grew up. "President of the United States!" he blurted. Later that night he envisioned himself after having been President asking, "All of this is great, but now what?"

Has life become a series of boxes to check? Have you reached the one that has you look over your prior checked boxes and ask, "All of this is great, but now what?"

Reflect: Where am I on my life's checklist?

Envision King Solomon reviewing his life's checklist...

☒ Pleasures – laughter, wine, women, song... he checked them all!

☒ Empire building – huge estates, gardens, parks, flocks. He was the richest person to ever live. He even found great pleasure in hard work!

☒ Fame – Kings and queens came from around the world seeking his wisdom!

Throughout it all, Solomon remained clear eyed, seeing everything for what it really was.

*"So I came to hate life because everything done here under the sun is so troubling. Everything is meaningless—like chasing the wind."
(Ecclesiastes 2:17)*

He looked over everything he'd worked so hard to accomplish. Realizing he'd checked every box offered *"here under the sun,"* he concluded that he hated life – it's *"like chasing the wind."* Solomon had it all but **hated** life... sounds absurd!!

Troubled, perhaps he'd finally checked this box...

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Consider: It's impossible for the world to deliver fulfilment; it delivers the opposite.

Could you ever check so many boxes as Solomon? Considering this a pipe dream, we accept a scaled down list, but our hidden desires are revealed by our answers to questions like, "If you won the lottery what would you do?" Oh, how we dream of having what Solomon had... then we'd do the meaningful things on our hearts. Inflating ourselves as wiser than Solomon, we think, "If it was me, I wouldn't hate life like he did!"

"Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end." (Ecclesiastes 3:11)

Our desire for the abundance of Heaven is deeply planted in us by the Lord himself. It's just that our timing is off... Impatient to satisfy it now, we turn to what's *"here under the sun"* seeking fulfillment. Solomon proved it delivers the opposite.

Imagine: Now is perfect timing for my Mission.

The author of Ecclesiastes concludes by answering "All of this is great, but now what?" by asserting its allied check box.

☒ *"Fear God and obey his commands, for this is everyone's duty."*

(Ecclesiastes 12:13)

If Solomon had checked this box years prior would his life been upended? Would he still hate it?

Have you checked it?

Once checked you won't expect the boxes offered *"here under the sun"* to satisfy your desire for meaning anymore. Truly fear God and he will lead you to seek him fervently! By shifting realms to **"here under the Son,"** he will clarify who he made you to be, give you your Mission (your unique role in Jesus' Great Commission) and you will obediently follow him into the adventure of your life.

While it's premature for your deeply planted desire for meaning to be fully satisfied, the time is ripe for your Mission. You'll discover great meaning by advancing your Mission now! Jesus is challenging you to get started. Be obedient! Check this box and then its ally:

☒ **"All of this is great, but now what?"**

Go off the grid and ask these questions:

Coach's Questions

- What things *"under the sun"* am I expecting to bring fulfillment?

- How long will I cling to this belief knowing it cannot deliver?
What must I do to shake myself from it?
- What will I do to begin fervently seeking God for answers to life's biggest questions?
- Don't know my Mission? [Start here!](#)

Spirit Talk

Post this where you will see it regularly.

Fulfillment only comes from God.

"Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world."

James 4:8 (NLT)



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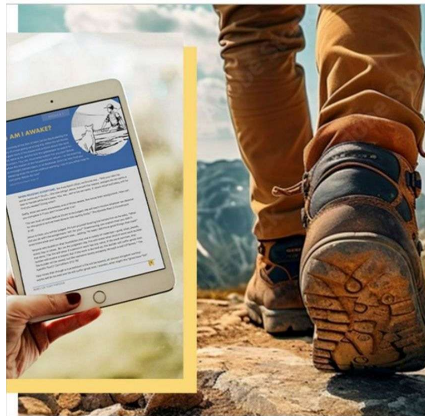
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Who's Awake?

I began delivering newspapers when I was 9. I quickly learned my route so it became a pretty easy after school job for me. Soon I learned that the best routes were the morning ones. I would make more money and my afternoons would be free to play baseball...really good! I finally got the chance. Perfect.... except for one small problem... [Keep reading](#)

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