

**May I never boast...
except...
in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

- Date:** 16 October 2016
- Services:** 930 (P)
- Series:** My minister asked me to give this to you
- Title:** There's more to life than meets the eye
- Passage:** Ecclesiastes 3:1-14
- Aim:** To show that we all have a hunch that there is more to life and that that hunch has been put there by God himself.
- Outline:** Intro: Quantum world
1. Point us to the obvious (that is, there is more...)
 2. That God is behind it – and
 3. What to do

// One of my first lecturers - before becoming a theologian, was a quantum physicist.

Once he stood at the front of the lecture room and started dropping a pen onto the desk.

He said that if he had an eternity to drop the pen – one time, it would pass right through.

That defies belief doesn't it?

He knew this because our world at a quantum level behaves totally differently to our macroscopic world.

These are not different worlds – they are the same – at different levels.

We have the macroscopic world – the world we can see and interact with.

The microscopic world – the world we can see and influence when aided by tools or machines

And the quantum world which we can't see but which we can see the consequences of.

So for example – at a quantum level – something – electrons most recently observed - can be in two places at once.

Something can move from one place to another without bridging the distance between.

Incredible isn't it?

I cannot get from here – to there – without going the distance between – but actually – all of the parts of me – at a quantum level – can?!!!

Our modern world is amazing – and it continues to throw unbelievable things at us...

And how often then – in this scope of all that is possible – do I – and probably you – hear from even amongst the most stoic of non-believers...

In the face of childbirth – of some new discovery – of an encounter with wildlife or nature or on seeing a shower of shooting stars

When someone overcomes the odds – defies the medical assertion

When someone succumbs; when someone passes...

// So often it is said: 'there has to be someone behind all this doesn't there...' with tears in their eyes or amazement written all over their faces...

But it's not just in the big emotional moments or the occasions of scientific or exploratory extremes...

Here and the same when I was on the Gold Coast - a person has arrived to the coast after years of planning... and they've made it financially – their family or kids are doing well...or well enough – and they've joined rotary, they play golf or do yoga – a month of Sunday's is their life...but there's a **void** – an **ache**... and they say:

// 'I'm **missing** something – there's got to be **more** to life...'

It's funny isn't it?

So many people reach the same conclusion...

Science has reached the same conclusion...

That there is more – and it's something we can connect with...

What about **YOU** –?

Do you believe there's more to life than meets the eye?

Today I'm going to take just a few moments really, to:

1. **Point us to the obvious** (that is, there is more...)
2. **Suggest that God is behind it** – and
3. If this is news to you – **help you know what to do** (and if it's not what you can do for others)

// A few years ago on the Gold Coast – I got talking to a parent at a school event

He seemed comfortable to talk to with me - chatting about his business and their home and kids doing well in good schools and so on, but in time stopped and said 'but there must be more to life than this...'

I paused – had a sip of my beer and said (and I remember it because I pinched it from an evangelist called Ravi Zacharias: // **'In life, we're not made happy by what we acquire but by what we appreciate.'**

I followed this by saying:// **'If you ask me, the problem we have today is not that people feel they have nothing to be grateful for, it's that they feel they have no one to be grateful to.'**

He obviously thought these were worthwhile thoughts as he wrote them down on a coaster nearby...

And then, after a little pause - he asked 'but who? Who should I be grateful too?'

This self-made man, who seemed to have it all...knew he couldn't fill the gap he felt himself – and after chiselling away the pride of all he had done – knew he had to turn somewhere else now...it was quite a shift in the conversation.

Have you ever had this type of conversation before? Have you ever wondered these thoughts to yourself?

When you say: 'there must be something more', do you think that there might be – more to the world than that which we see?

That our world – our very existence – isn't just a coincidence – a cosmic accident and that you – perhaps – in your quest to be self-made have overlooked a connection with that very thing?

I have had my fair share of these sorts of searching conversations over the years with people from all walks of life.

From the simplest labourer – through to a psychologist, a particle physicist, a mathematician – and despite their knowledge or achievements – personal or public – their yearning to fill an un-named void was expressed almost identically...

[//]

Let's go back to our bible reading friends.

// Ecclesiastes 3:11

*He has made everything beautiful in its time. **He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.***

Something within us knows there is more to life than meets the eye.

We have been given an innate ability to assess and evaluate the world from an eternal perspective.

The divine perspective.

God has put in our hearts the fact that there is a dimension bigger than ourselves - larger than this life.

Humanity has **always** looked for something or someone beyond ourselves - some idea of transcendence; looked for significance which comes from being part of something **bigger** than what we see around us.

The claim of this passage is that **God** has put eternity in our hearts – with the implication that we must look to **him** to find meaning and significance and hope and answers in the many rhythms of life the author of Ecclesiastes outlined for us...

This is true of all humanity..

All cultures and societies look for cause and reason to the things that they can't explain.

People do this inherently. It is – as the author of Ecclesiastes wrote – set in our hearts.

We look to stars and wonder

We see new life and wonder

We experience death – and wonder

We seek answers – with the exception of when **we want the answer to be veiled** because we cannot handle the possibility of the truth.

Perhaps because we're embarrassed.

Perhaps because it will mean a life change we're not yet ready for.

Perhaps because we're ashamed of what we have done and it is easier to be blind to the truth than to risk having it expose us.

If this is you – then relax – let me tell you about what it is that you’re missing.

If it’s not you – and you live in confidence with no such void because of the depth of your faith and that of God’s in you - then you will know someone in this category – so please, listen carefully as we turn back to our bible reading...

Which states, knowingly – beautifully, all things have a season.

A time to be born and a time to die...a time to tear down and a time to build, verses 2 and 3 of our bible reading.

And skipping forward to verses 12 and 13:

¹² I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. ¹³ That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God.

Very true – and not just because it says so – but by our human experience...

A hard days work brings appreciation – satisfaction – joy – eating and drinking together in community – should bear gratefulness as it is a gift from God.

But in our human-ness – we easily warp this truth.

Too often we look at our day of toil – and shrug and think about the next.

Too often we eat and drink with our friends bragging about our achievements and rarely thanking God...

And what’s true of us and our nature now was true 2000 years ago when Jesus entered the world.

He turned up

As a person

To show us he’s for real

To call us back into friendship with him

To point us to God – and remind us of all that God has done.

[pause]

To reconcile us to himself.

He walked Galilee and Jerusalem

Did some baffling things which people are still trying to get their heads around – like heal sick people, walk on water, multiply food... ROSE FROM THE DEAD!

And in doing so showed us how far we'd wandered **from** God – but also made it possible to come back into relationship **with** God....

He drew back the veil that so many people had closed and in doing so showed them what life could be like – when there is gratefulness in their hearts and it is directed to one who deserves it.

He restored their relationship with God and in that people flourished.

Their lives changed.

And this is 'that something' that the parent at the school event was looking for.

It's this that causes us to wonder.

It's the very **reason** we were created

Created the Bible says 'in his image' – not physically – but with everything we needed to relate to him....

And how sad it is when that relationship – is broken – or absent.

When that truth is unknown or ignored.

So friends – if that's the case for you – then today the veil can be drawn back.

That God-given hunch can be satisfied.

That question of 'is there is more to life?' can be answered

And a restless soul can find peace.

Three words are all that is needed to explain how to fill that gap:

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- Turn
- Trust
- Follow

Turn – turn around your life from one that is lived without God – turn away from a life lived for self...

- by admitting your need for God
- admitting you've mucked things up
- by saying 'sorry'...

Trust...in what God has done so that you can be reconciled... Trust that when he says you can be forgiven for all you've mucked up because when Jesus died he took the penalty for you... trust that – thank God for that – say – yes Lord – thank you that Jesus died for me

Follow – that is – put Jesus first... that's what it means to follow him... that he will be your first love... your passion – your priority... declare that he will rule your life now – not you - and even when it's hard – you'll serve him...

Turn, trust, follow... and you'll find your hunch beautifully satisfied in relationship with the God who made you for relationship...

I'm around – I'm easy to contact – and I'd love to hear from you if you'd like to take this step or ask more questions as you do so...

This video might help – and there is a song afterwards during which time I encourage you to pray – open yourself up to God and seek to restore that relationship...

- *RUN VIDEO* - <http://skitguys.com/videos/item/our-mess-gods-masterpiece>