

## Life before death: Monotony

Ecclesiastes 1:1-18

### Life now

Ecclesiastes 1:1-3; 1 Kings 4:29-34; Ecclesiastes 1:4-11

### Wisdom

Ecclesiastes 1:12-18; Colossians 3:2-4

Most people, if they had really learned to look into their own hearts, would know that they do want, and want acutely, something that cannot be had in this world. . . . If I find myself with a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world. — C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

### Considerations for the week

**Cycles of nature, v. 4-7.** Solomon speaks of the cycles of nature to demonstrate that life under the sun has no ultimate purpose. What do you think?

**Is that all?** Peter Kreeft quotes Jean-Paul Sartre in *Heaven, the Heart's Deepest Longing*:

There comes a time when one asks even of Shakespeare, even of Beethoven: "Is that all?"

When have you asked of life, "Is that all there is?"

**Under the sun.** Since before the time of Solomon, technology has steadily improved and medical discoveries have been made continuously. Explain how it is that Solomon can say that there is nothing new under the sun.

**Wisdom.** Explore the relationship between wisdom and sorrow. How does wisdom cause sorrow?

Was there anything in these verses that was hard to hear but needed to be heard? Consider it and share with another.

*Please use these considerations for personal reflection, small group discussions, and with friends and family.*



## What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun?

Ecclesiastes 1:3, ESV

Scripture read today during worship:

Hebrews 13:15-16

### Prayer today

Members will be praying for us during the service today and also during the week. Please email us at [prayer@rtbchurch.org](mailto:prayer@rtbchurch.org) to let us know how we may pray for you.

**Rice Temple Baptist Church**

## Today's order of service

Prelude

Welcome and Call to Worship

Hymn, *This World Is Not My Home*

Hymn, *10,000 Reasons*

Hymn, *Better Is One Day*

Offertory

Reading

Hymn, *Every Promise of Your Word*

Message

Observance of the Lord's Supper

Hymn of response

*Grace Greater than Our Sin*

Benediction

Postlude

## Weekly events

Today after benediction, Cookies & Coffee, in parlor

Young adults fellowship, Monday at 6:45pm. Dinner and discussion for those in college or starting careers

Mom's Day Out, Tuesday and Friday, 9am – 2pm  
pre-registration required

Wednesday

Kids' Music Class, 5-6 pm

Dinner served, 5:30-6:30 pm. Menu: beef taco  
salad, fruit, cheesecake, ice cream

Prayer, 6:30 pm in the prayer room

BLAST! Children's Bible study and fun, 6:00 pm

Ladies' international Bible class (Zoom), 6:45 pm

Sermon discussion on Zoom, 7 pm

Choir rehearsal, 7:45 pm

Joy Program, Thursday, 9am-noon, conversational  
English classes, Bible study, crafts, and handbells  
Young internationals Bible study, Saturday at 7 pm

Men's Bible study, every-other Saturday at 8 am.  
Meets next week, September 20.

Sunday morning

Adult Bible study, 9:30 am

Worship, 10:45 am

Children's Church at sermon time

**The church office has information on events.**

Phone: 713.559.6875 Email: [office@rtbchurch.org](mailto:office@rtbchurch.org)

The office is open Tuesday - Friday, 9am-4pm

### Welcome Rice U students

in InterVarsity Fellowship!

We're glad you chose  
to worship with us today.

We will observe the **Lord's Supper** today.  
The bread served will be gluten-free.

**Ladies' Bible Study** will be exploring Revelation, using a study guide by Jen Wilkins. There will be duplicate sessions on Tuesday mornings and Thursday evenings, beginning September 16 @ 9am and September 18 @ 7pm. For information, contact the church office.

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online giving



**Got the app?** You can download our free mobile app by searching for "RTBC" in the Apple or Android store.

Please be advised that our services are livestreamed to the internet. Your participation in the service serves as your consent to the broadcast of your image and voice and to the broadcast of the image and voice of your participating minor children.