

# *Ecclesiastes 12.1-13*

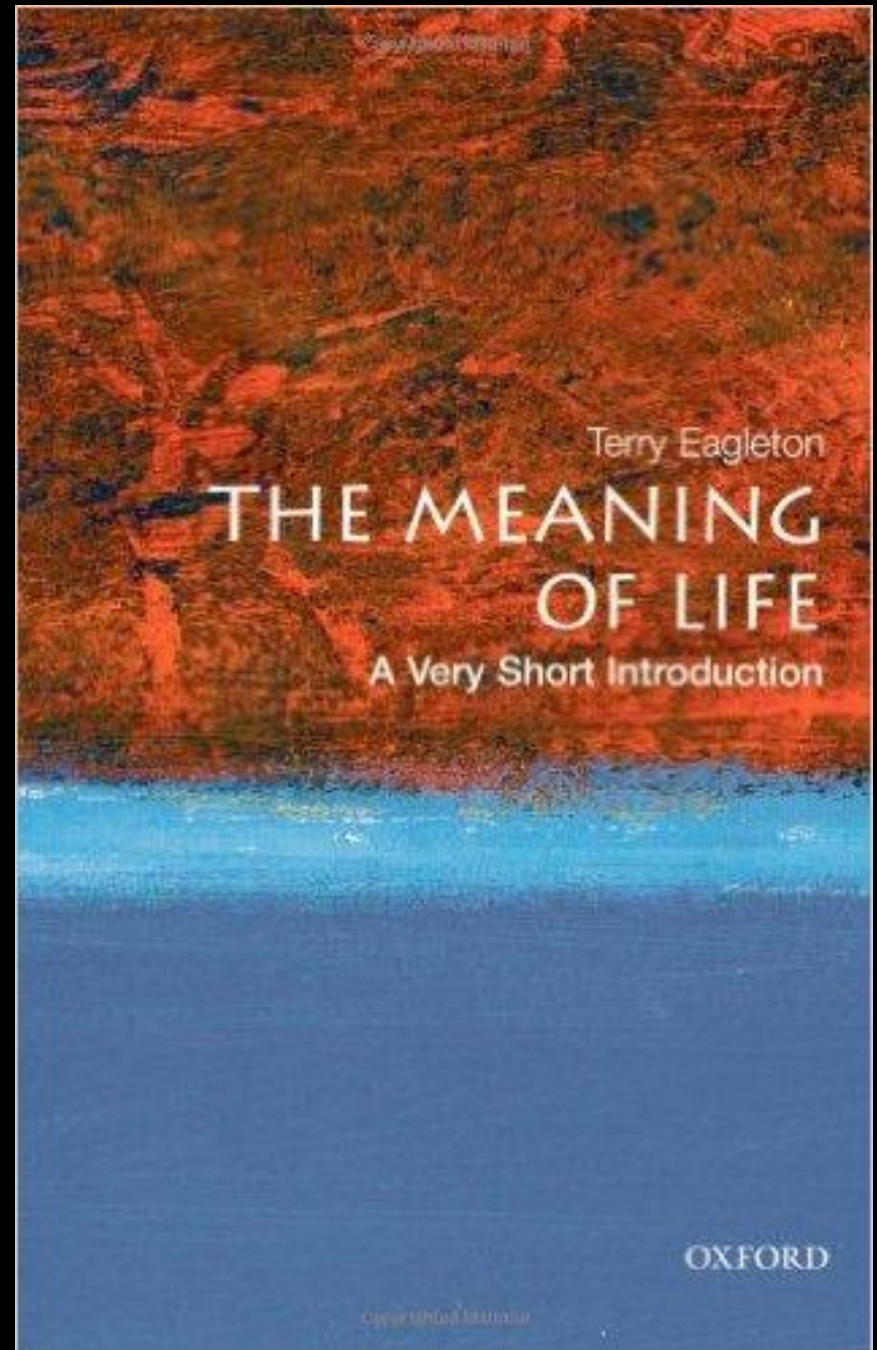
How can I find meaning?

**“The meaning  
of life  
is  
that it stops.”**

*-Franz Kafka*

*“There isn’t one,  
sorry!”*

*The teacher*



# *Ecclesiastes 12:1*

Remember your Creator in the days of your youth





# *Deuteronomy 8-9*

## *What should we remember?*

- Remember what God has done  
(Deuteronomy 8:2ff)
  - Leading (2)
  - Teaching (3)
  - Sustenance (4)
- Remember your own failures  
(Deuteronomy 9:7)



*Remembering the  
past makes sense of  
the present*

# *Fear of the LORD*

- Wisdom and knowledge (Job 28:28; Psalm 111:10; Proverbs 1:7, 2:5; 9:10; Isaiah 11:2, 33:6)
- Adds length and quality of life (Proverbs 10:27, 14:27, 19:23, 22:4; Isaiah 33:6)



*Fearing God  
recognises our need  
for wisdom for a good  
and healthy life*



# *Obeying the LORD*

- Deuteronomy 6:3: “so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, promised you”
- Deuteronomy 6:24: The Lord commanded us to **obey** all these decrees and to fear the Lord our God, so that we might always prosper and be kept alive, as is the case today.
- Deuteronomy 12:28: Be careful to **obey** all these regulations I am giving you, so that it may always go well with you and your children after you, because you will be doing what is good and right in the eyes of the Lord your God.



*Obeying the LORD is  
for our own blessing  
and good*

# So?

- Nothing makes sense
  - Pleasure – Epicureanism (2:1-11)
  - Wisdom and Folly – Platonism (2:12-16)
  - Work – Stoicism (2:17-26)
  - Advancement – Ambition (4:13-16)
  - Riches – Avarice (5:8-6:12)
  - Youth and vigour – health (11:7-12:7)
- Everyone dies (9:1-10:20)



Remember the LORD

Fear the LORD

Obey the LORD



# *Westminster Shorter Catechism*

Q1

What is the chief aim of humanity?

A

Humanity's chief aim is to glorify God  
and enjoy Him forever

*The teacher does not have the last word!*

Now this is  
eternal life: that  
they know you,  
the only true  
God, and Jesus  
Christ, whom  
you have sent  
(John 17:3)