



Summer Sermon Series



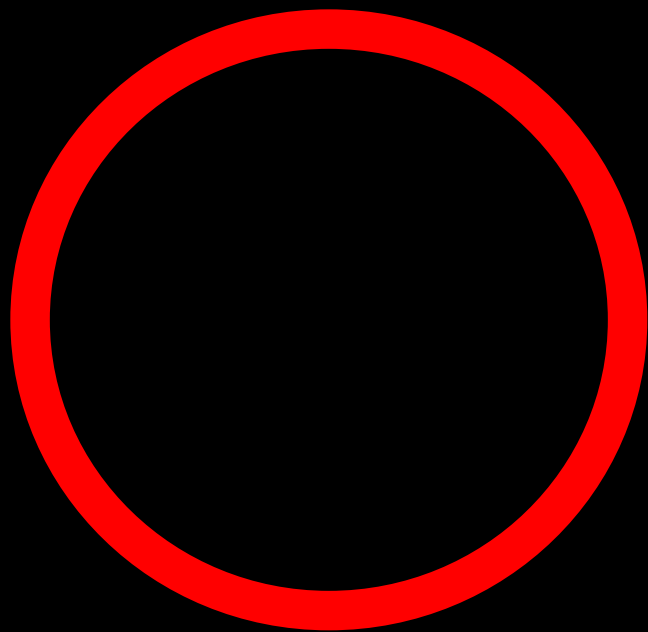
Disney  
ALICE  
IN  
WONDERLAND





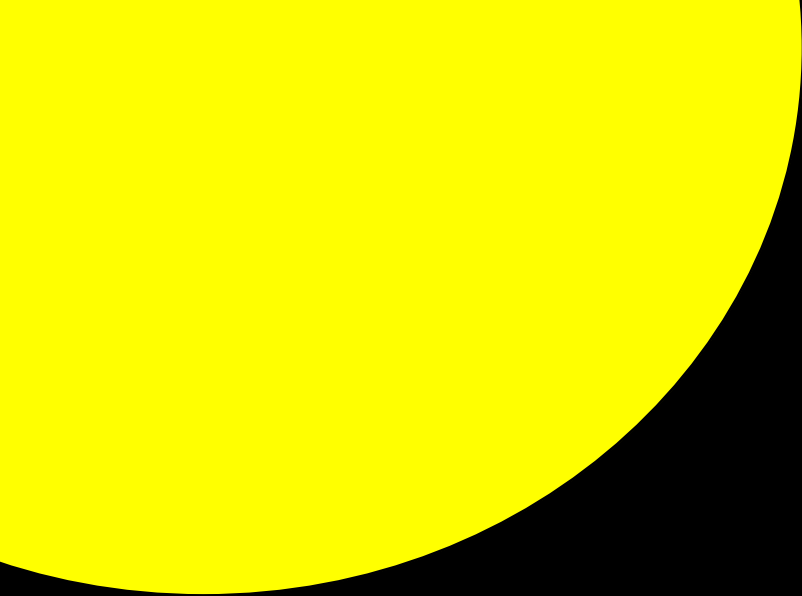
**Last Week's Sermon:**  
Ecclesiastes Part I: What's the point of it all?





# Ecclesiastes 1:2

<sup>2</sup> “Meaningless! Meaningless!”  
says the Teacher.  
“Utterly meaningless!  
Everything is meaningless.”





**This Week's Sermon:**  
Ecclesiastes Part II: Is there any Hope?



Proverbs



Ecclesiastes



Job



# Utilitarianism

*[(,)yü-,ti-lə-'ter-ē-ə-,ni-zəm]*

A theory of morality that advocates actions that foster happiness or pleasure and oppose actions that cause unhappiness or harm.

# Nihilism.

*noun*

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*The rejection of all religious and moral principles, in the belief that life is meaningless.*

*The belief that nothing in the world has a real existence.*

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Source: [Google](#) | [Oxford Languages](#)

A Term commonly associated with Friedrich Nietzsche, a German philosopher.



## Ecclesiastes 9:3-6

<sup>3</sup> This is the evil in everything that happens under the sun: The same destiny overtakes all. The hearts of people, moreover, are full of evil and there is madness in their hearts while they live, and afterward they join the dead. <sup>4</sup> Anyone who is among the living has hope—even a live dog is better off than a dead lion!



# Ecclesiastes 9:3-6

<sup>5</sup> For the living know that they will die,  
but the dead know nothing;  
they have no further reward,  
and even their name is forgotten.

<sup>6</sup> Their love, their hate  
and their jealousy have long since vanished;  
never again will they have a part  
in anything that happens under the sun.

# Agnostic:

a person who neither believes nor disbelieves in a higher power



vs

# Atheist:

a person who does not believe in any god or higher power





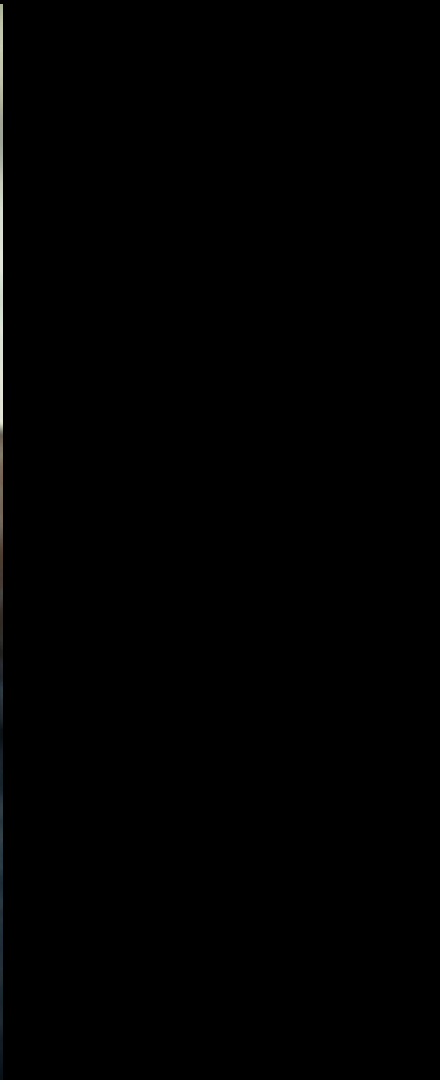
The first thing to get clear about Christian morality between man and man is that in this department Christ did not come to teach any brand new morality. The Golden Rule of the New Testament (Do as you would be done by) is a summing up of what everyone, at bottom, had always known to be right.

— *C. S. Lewis* —

**AZ QUOTES**

## Acts 2:22-24

<sup>22</sup> “Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. <sup>23</sup> This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. <sup>24</sup> But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.









# The Conclusion of the Matter

## Ecclesiastes 12:9-14

<sup>9</sup> Not only was the Teacher wise, but he also imparted knowledge to the people. He pondered and searched out and set in order many proverbs. <sup>10</sup> The Teacher searched to find just the right words, and what he wrote was upright and true.

<sup>11</sup> The words of the wise are like goads, their collected sayings like firmly embedded nails – given by one shepherd. <sup>12</sup> Be warned, my son, of anything in addition to them.

Of making many books there is no end, and much study wearies the body.

# Ecclesiastes 12:9-14

<sup>13</sup> 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.

<sup>14</sup> For God will bring every deed into judgment,

including every hidden thing,

whether it is good or evil.



**Remember**

# 1 Peter 2:9-10

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

# Gospel in Community On Mission at Hope Lowertown



**Biblically Focused**  
Accomplished through preaching, classes, and Bible studies, we want to be known for deeper relationships centered on God's Word.



**Prayer and Care**  
We want anyone who comes to our church to know they are cared for and part of the community with one another.



**Community**  
We actually like one another and want to deepen our friendships with laughter and joy!

**Serving the City**  
We can show people outside our normal day to day relationships the love of God by being the hands and feet of Jesus.



**Hospitality**  
Welcoming people as Christ has welcomed us by showing hospitality. -(Romans 15:7)



**Sharing the Good News**  
Proclaiming the good news of Jesus in word and deed.







# *Gospel in Community On Mission at Hope Lowertown*

GOSPEL  
CENTRALITY



**Keeping the gospel at the center of our lives  
as we follow Jesus together, grow in grace, and love our neighbors.**



**M**  
**i**  
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**Gospel**





**M**  
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**y**

**How to do it**

**Gospel**

# *Gospel in Community On Mission at Hope Lowertown*



## **BIBLICALLY FOCUSED**

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**GOSPEL  
CENTRALITY**

# *Gospel in Community On Mission at Hope Lowertown*



## **PRAYER AND CARE**

**We want anyone who comes to our church to know they are cared for and part of the community with one another.**



**GOSPEL  
CENTRALITY**

# *Gospel in Community On Mission at Hope Lowertown*



## COMMUNITY

We actually like one another and want to follow Jesus together and deepen our friendships with laughter and joy!

GOSPEL  
CENTRALITY



# *Gospel in Community On Mission at Hope Lowertown*



## SERVING THE CITY

**GOSPEL  
CENTRALITY**

**Showing people outside  
our normal day to day  
relationships the love of  
God by being the hands and  
feet of Jesus.**

# *Gospel in Community On Mission at Hope Lowertown*



## HOSPITALITY

**GOSPEL  
CENTRALITY**



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Christ has welcomed us by  
showing hospitality.  
(Romans 15:7)**



# *Gospel in Community On Mission at Hope Lowertown*



## SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

**GOSPEL  
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# Everything in Moderation, Especially Moderation

# Ecclesiastes 7:15-18

<sup>15</sup> In this meaningless life of mine I have seen both of these:

the righteous perishing in their righteousness,  
and the wicked living long in their wickedness.

<sup>16</sup> Do not be overrighteous,  
neither be overwise —  
why destroy yourself?

# Ecclesiastes 7:15-18

<sup>17</sup> Do not be overwicked,  
and do not be a fool —  
why die before your time?

<sup>18</sup> It is good to grasp the one  
and not let go of the other.

Whoever fears God will avoid all extremes.

**Remember what it was like to have no  
purpose? No answers to life's biggest  
questions?**



# HALF TRUTHS

GOSPEL CLARITY IN A NOISY WORLD

**LOVE  
EQUALS  
AGREEMENT**

**HALF  
TRUTHS**



It's easy to feel overwhelmed by the competing voices and narratives that shape our lives. Often, these cultural messages – while well-intentioned – can leave us feeling burdened, anxious, or disconnected. This is why this fall, we'll explore seven pervasive cultural half truths that mislead our understanding of life, identity, and purpose. But this series isn't about proving who's "right." Instead, the goal is to discover how Jesus is *the truth*, and to step into reality where His gospel liberates us from all the little lies that cling so closely. Join us this fall for "Half Truths: hearing grace in a world of noise."

# Gospel Application

Remember

# Gospel Application

Remember

Proclaim