



Chaplain's Notes

August 2005

"life is for us"

What are you looking for?

I remember one of my most favourite songs in the 1980's was U2's "I still haven't found what I'm looking for." You probably remember the song well. Here are some of the words:

I have climbed highest mountain
I have run through the fields
Only to be with you,
Only to be with you

...

I have kissed honey lips
Felt the healing in her fingertips
It burned like fire
This burning desire

...

But I still haven't found what I'm looking for
But I still haven't found what I'm looking for

At times in my life, I have really resonated with Bono's words.



I have climbed highest mountains (well, at least Mt Kosciuszko).

I have kissed honey lips (need I say more?)

But in the end I was still missing something. The deepest purpose and meaning in my life were still not fulfilled.

I had to leave the mountain.

The girl didn't agree with my beliefs. And I still had to press on with life.

What about you? What are you looking for? In the midst of life's busy-ness, have you ever really taken the time to stop and think what it is that you are really looking for?

King Solomon, one of the wisest men who has ever lived on earth, recorded his search for meaning and purpose in the book of Ecclesiastes which we have in the Bible. In it, he describes his search. Like Bono, he, too, "climbed highest mountain," and "kissed honey lips."

Actually, King Solomon was very much like people today. He undertook great building projects, thinking that by having all these luxury dwellings the insatiable desire for meaning and purpose could be fulfilled.

When that didn't work, he set about fulfilling his every sensual desire, surrounding himself with beautiful music, beautiful women, and beautiful food.



Solomon
tried great
building
projects,
too.

But in the end that didn't satisfy him either.¹

What about you? What are you surrounding yourself with in order to satisfy the deepest longings of your soul?

Do you want a new house?
What about a new boyfriend or girlfriend?
A better job and a new car?

Perhaps some of you are actually sick and tired of trying to meet your "needs," and so you've given up, resorting to alcohol or dope to deaden the pain of your unfulfilled longings.

All of us, whether we realize it or not, are looking for life – LIFE! Something or someone that will satisfy the deepest longings of our hearts.

The key to finding the solution to this dilemma is in realizing that the Bible says God has placed "eternity in our hearts".²

But what does this mean?

It means at least that nothing temporary, nothing of this world, can satisfy the core of our being. We need something eternal.

Where can we get it?
What is eternal?

Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life."³

Jesus said, "I am the Beginning and the End."⁴

Jesus said, "I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever!"⁵

What every one of us is really looking for is a relationship with Jesus Christ.

We were made for love. We were made for eternal relationship. We were made for an eternal purpose and destiny.

Only in Jesus Christ can your deepest longings be fulfilled.

Think about your life again for one moment, and note how Jesus Christ can meet your deepest aspirations:

Only in
Jesus
can we find the
answer

(1) Ecclesiastes 2:4-11. (2) Ecclesiastes 3:11. (3) John 14:6. (4) Revelation 1:8. (5) Revelation 1:18.

You are looking for acceptance.

Jesus said: "Whoever comes to me I will never drive away."⁶

You are looking for love.

Jesus said: "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you."⁷

You are looking for purpose and significance.

Jesus said: "I have come that you might have life, and have it more abundantly."⁸

You are looking for help.

Jesus said: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."⁹

You are looking for wisdom and knowledge.

Jesus said: "I am ... the Truth."¹⁰

You are looking for forgiveness.

Jesus said: "[I] have authority on earth to forgive sins."¹¹

There is nothing better that you can do with your life than to take up Jesus' invitation.

Jesus says: "Come, follow me."¹²

What are you looking for?

You are looking for Jesus. And He is waiting to accept you into His arms today. Will you come?

Let us pray:

*Oh dear Lord Jesus,
Thank you so much that you want to give me purpose and meaning for my life!*

Forgive me for looking everywhere else but to You.

I come to you now and want to live my life as Your follower.

Fill me with Your Spirit and Your power;

I need Your help in everything!

Thank You, Lord Jesus!

You're the best!

Amen.

Special Notice: Community Chaplain's last year in East Preston / Reservoir

Dear friends,

When I first came to this area in January 2001, it was in response to a dream that God gave me. In that dream, He told me to come to this area for 3 to 5 years and then move on to German speaking Europe.

I have been praying a lot about this, and in the last month, God has confirmed to me that I will be heading off to Europe next year, and so I plan to finish my work here after Christmas.

In the remaining months, please feel free to contact me on any issue that you would like to talk to me about.

I will keep you posted on developments as they unfold.

Peter Kutschker.

(6) John 6:37. (7) John 15:9. (8) John 10:10. (9) Matthew 11:28. (10) John 14:6. (11) Matthew 9:6. (12) Matthew 4:19.

Kids' Church

(adults  welcome, too!)

Come along and enjoy all the **fun** as we:



sing songs

do great activities

learn more about God

play games

participate in drama

eat food



Where: Preston North East Primary School Hall

When: Sunday 21st August, 4pm - 5.30pm

(Come at 3pm to help set up!)

All children under 12 years old should be supervised by a parent / guardian / brother or sister over 16.

Invite your friends!

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