

**New City Baptist Church
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Secularism: Its Problems and its Remedy - Part 1 (Ecclesiastes 1:1-3:22)

Message of Ecclesiastes:

Fear God **in order** to turn a vain, empty life into a meaningful life that will enjoy God's good gifts.

1) Title (1:1)

2) The secularist's problems (1:2-2:23)

- i. The failure of secularism (1:2-11)
- ii. The failure of wisdom to satisfy secular life (1:12-18)
- iii. The failure of pleasure seeking and self indulgence to satisfy secular life (2:1-11)
- iv. Life's ultimate certainty: death (2:12-23)

3) The alternative to secularism: faith in God (2:24-3:22)

- i. The life of faith (2:24-26)
- ii. The providence of God (3:1-8)
- iii. Fear God, the Sovereign One (3:9-15)
- iv. The judgment of God (3:16-22)

Key words: futility, secularism, meaning of life, philosophy, wisdom, pleasure, money, death, Solomon, fool