

# *Know the God of Scripture*

Volume 1

## **Week 30: The True Purpose of Life - Answer Guide**

*Below is the answer guide for this week's lesson. By no means are the answers complete or the only possible responses to each question. They are a guide to fully understanding the intent of the questions posed.*

**1.** The Hebrew word used for vanity is *hebel* and is used five times, four of those in a twofold repetition to amplify its meaning. This metaphorical term refers to what is without real substance, value, permanence, significance or meaning.

**2.** There is nothing new in the life of man, for life is a continuous cycle of reoccurring events. Things only “appear” to be new. People don’t change (their hearts are deceptively wicked), things and events change, but people don’t. The more knowledgeable of the world one becomes the more he begins to realize how much he doesn’t know.

**3.** In Proverbs 2:1-3 King Solomon obtained pleasure. In Proverbs 2:4 it was accomplishments like building projects (extravagant buildings, large productive vineyards, man-made reservoirs). In Proverbs 2:7 it was simple possessions like slaves, herds, and flocks. In Proverbs 2:8 it was precious metals like silver and gold, along with male and female singers and concubines. And again, in Proverbs 2:10 it was more pleasures.

**4.** He found them all to be futile, a chasing of the wind. They were all temporary and did not fulfill him.

**5.** Wisdom and work, like life pleasures, were also just folly and futile. Proverbs 2:17 has tendencies of suicidal thoughts many experience today. Again, nothing new under the sun. His point was “Why work if all the fruits of your labor are passed on to those who don’t deserve them”?

**6.** It appears King Solomon is mocking epicureanism (probably because of its popularity and practice) by saying that it, too, is not fulfilling in life. Reference Proverbs 5:18.

**7.** God has placed a desire to spend eternity with Him in our hearts that compels us to seek Him. God gives us everything to enjoy so that we will “be in awe of Him,” recognizing Him for who He is and what He has done to redeem us.

**8.** It’s interesting that Solomon mentions several benefits of two people’s togetherness and then mentions three. A cord of three strands is stronger than one or two. It can withstand the stresses applied to it better than one or two. It would do us wise to make the third person Christ for it is through Him that we can withstand the stress of life.

**9.** We are all “crooked” from birth. Crookedness is a metaphor for sin. Only one person can “straighten” us out and that is Jesus! It is as if everyone in life is running around with a can of peaches and trying every conceivable method to open it. But the only person who has the can opener is Jesus! Only in Him do we find true meaning and purpose in life.

**10.** Wisdom is seeing these things evolve in the light of Christ and knowing God is in complete control of every circumstance we experience. This worldview plays well into the hands of those who see themselves as sojourners for Christ. As sojourners, we don’t allow the stresses in life to get to us because they are temporal. Our hope is in Christ, and Him alone, and the fact we will be taken from this world to live in peace eternally with Him.

**11.** Despite what many people believe, they are not the masters of their own fate. What they do has already been filtered through the sovereignty of God and His will. Compare this to Proverbs 21:1.

**12.** The body returns to dust from which it originated and the spirit (ruah) returns to God from whom it originated. This is obviously a reference to Genesis 2:7 where God combined the dust with His Spirit and the two became a living soul. Here the dust returns to earth and the spirit back to God and the soul seems to vanish. This verse should be coupled with Proverbs 12:14 that illustrates the fact that every person will be judged after life.

**13.** Proverbs 12:13 answers all the questions King Solomon has posed thus far. For nothing can fill the cravings of our heart except God who formed us. To love God and obey His commandments is life eternal.

### **Additional Questions:**

**1.** King Solomon was the most powerful, richest and most wise of all the kings in history. In addition, he had 1000 wives and concubines. What better person in history would be qualified to write about all these subjects and how they never satisfied his soul?

**2.** Answers will vary depending on personal experience. As mentioned above, think of people wandering around on earth with a can of peaches doing everything they can conceive to open it. Meanwhile, you know that there's only one person with the ability to open their can, and that person is Jesus. They have a need, sometimes unknowingly, whereas you know the answer to their dilemma. In this way you will always have the urge to tell them of Jesus.

**3.** Knowing God is all-knowing and all-powerful should not prevent us from doing what He has called us to do. In fact, it should actually encourage and empower us to do His will. He does not need us to bring about His will. However, His desire is to use His elect as vessels to do such. Therefore, we should offer to Him our empty vessels to be used according to His will.

