

Meaningless! Meaningless!

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Solomon, the former King of Israel, was considered by scholars to be the richest person that ever lived. Despite all his treasures and all his pursuits Solomon wrote the following words, “Meaningless! Meaningless! ... Everything is meaningless!” (**Ecclesiastes 1:2** NIV).

What is it you’re doing? Perhaps the more important question is why are you doing it? I may be wrong, but I think Solomon felt that way because his pursuits were selfish. His pursuits were not focused on the greater good, they were focused solely upon himself. Solomon continued his tirade by saying, “Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind.” (**Ecclesiastes 2:11** NIV).

Notice the pronouns Solomon used. “I surveyed...my hands...I had toiled”

In **Ecclesiastes 2:18** Solomon says, “I hated all the things I had toiled for under the sun, because I must leave them to the one who comes after me.”

If we can’t attach a U-Haul full of our treasured possessions behind our hearse, what can we take with us after we die? Material pursuits do not necessarily produce a meaningful life. Are you pursuing the right goals? Perhaps life is more about building character. The apostle Paul may have been on track when he said, “but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance, perseverance, character; and character, hope.” (**Rom 5:3-4** NIV)

I view those “sufferings” as sweat equity. When we’re working with others, we don’t notice the aches and pains as much. Whether it’s hammering nails or whittling down broken branches, there’s often laughter and lively banter when we’re doing something together to help others.

At the recent Delaware State Convention, **VFW Post 475** was again granted the designation **All-State Post** due to the hourly contributions of our team members. Perseverance, character, hope! It is the hope we continue to bring to our community and our fellow veterans that makes **VFW Post 475** distinct. If you’ve been feeling that your work feels meaningless, come out and join us. Laughter and helping out those in need is great medicine for the soul.