

“Easy Ways to Wreck Your Life: Let Success Consume You”

Fear God and **obey** his commands.

Ecclesiastes 12:13 NLT

That’s the whole story. Here now is my final conclusion: Fear God and obey his commands, for this is everyone’s duty.

Wisdom

Life apart from God is **meaningless**.

Ecclesiastes 1:1-2 NLT

These are the words of the Teacher, King David’s son, who ruled in Jerusalem. “Everything is **meaningless**,” says the Teacher, “**completely meaningless!**”

Being **Consumed** by Success will Wreck Your Life

Ecclesiastes 2:17-20

So I came to hate life because everything done here under the sun is so troubling. Everything is meaningless—like chasing the wind. I came to **hate all my hard work** here on earth, for I must leave to others everything I have earned. And who can tell whether my successors will be wise or foolish? Yet they will control everything I have gained by my skill and hard work under the sun. How **meaningless!**

The **Futility** of Work

Ecclesiastes 2:20-21 NLT

So I gave up in despair, **questioning the value of all my hard work** in this world. Some people work wisely with knowledge and skill, then must leave the fruit of

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their efforts to someone who hasn't worked for it. This, too, is **meaningless, a great tragedy**.

Ecclesiastes 2:22-23 NLT

So what do people **get** in this life for all their hard work and anxiety? Their days of labor are filled with **pain** and **grief**; even at night their **minds cannot rest**. It is all **meaningless**.



Photograph of Tom Brady

I'm making more money than I ever thought I could make playing football, why do I have three Super Bowl rings and still think there is something greater for me? I mean, maybe a lot of people would think this is it, I've reached my goal, my dream, my life. Me, I think, it's got to be more than this! This isn't, I mean this can't be what it's all cracked up to be. Interviewer asked, well what's the answer? Brady said, I wish I knew.

Big Fat Lie: My **success** defines my identity.

A) Consumed by **winning**

If I could just be successful at _____, then I'll be seen as _____.

B) Caught in the **comparison** trap

Ecclesiastes 4:4 NLT

Then I observed that most people are **motivated to success** because they **envy their neighbors**. But this, too, is meaningless—like chasing the wind.

C) **Compromise** your character

Don't Wreck Your Life thinking you will be **successful** to Become Someone

TRUTH: My identity determines my **success**.

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“Failure is to **succeed** at something that really doesn’t matter.”

“Beware friend as you pass by as you are now so once was I, as I am now soon you shall be, prepare in life to follow me.”

Gravestone of John Bellows, January 1, 1813-May 14, 1882, Lancaster Texas

1 Timothy 6:21 TLB

Some of these people have missed the most **important thing** in life—they don’t **know God**. May God’s mercy be upon you.

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