

# LIVING ON THE RAGGED EDGE: COMING TO TERMS WITH REALITY

## JOURNAL OF A DESPERATE JOURNEY

### SELECTED VERSES IN ECCLESIASTES



## The Heart of the Matter

*Living on the Ragged Edge* is a study of the book of Ecclesiastes, and it's for folks who live in the trenches—down there where it's dark and dirty and full of responsibility, where the grit of reality mixed with the grind of accountability holds people's feet to the fire. It's for real people who cannot free themselves from the demands of competition or escape the pressures of deadlines. All the messages in this study will offer straight talk on coping with life as it *really* is.

No matter where you live, it isn't long before you realize that you're back on the ragged edge of reality . . . especially if you're the type who wants to make a contribution to this world before you're six feet under.

Solomon, David's brilliant son who followed his dad as king of Israel, came to realize that nothing is worthwhile—everything is futile.



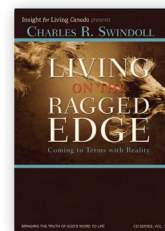
## Discovering the Way

### 1. Introductory Matters

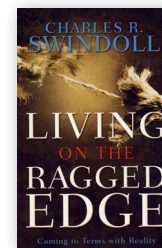
One doesn't need to be a Hebrew scholar to realize that Solomon's outlook was pretty bleak. Solomon, a man of great wisdom, went through a maddening period in his life when everything lost its luster, when the very roots of his life were loosened. With clenched fists and cynical words, Solomon called into question the most basic issues of existence. The man kept a journal of that dark and desperate journey that has been preserved for all to read. It is not only the story of one man's experience but of all who attempt to live their lives apart from God.



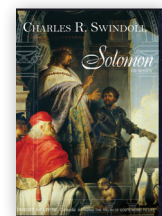
## Tools for Digging Deeper



Living on the Ragged Edge  
by Charles R. Swindoll  
Classic CD series and  
softcover workbook



Living on the Ragged Edge  
Workbook  
by Insight for Living  
softcover workbook



Solomon  
by Charles R. Swindoll  
CD series

To order any of these recommended resources, call 1-800-663-7639

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## Starting Your Journey

How does Solomon's journal relate to *our* journeys? We must understand that:

- The lure of something *better*—something more than what we have—is forever with us.
- The temptation to *go for it* is often so strong, it blinds us to consequences . . . it creates an irresponsible “itch” that begs to be scratched.
- This book stands as timeless proof that without God, apart from His presence and His approval, *nothing* satisfies!

**Do you invest all of your time, talents, and treasures in some uncertain future when you believe you'll finally reap the rewards, or do you treat each day as a unique gift to be enjoyed and used to God's glory?**