

The
GOOD
LIFE
a Study in Ecclesiastes

“Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher. “Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.”

Ecclesiastes 1:2 (NIV)



“Ecclesiastes sounds like a crazed man downtown. He smells like he hasn’t bathed, looks like it too, and as we pass by he won’t stop glaring at us and beckoning to us that our lives are built on illusions, and that we are all going to die.”

- Zack Eswine



Train up a child in the way he should go;
even when he is old he will not depart
from it.

Proverbs 22:6



Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established.

Proverbs 16:3



So I hated life, because the work that is done under the sun was grievous to me. All of it is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

Ecclesiastes 2:17



PROVERBS:

Good Man + God's Love + Wisdom
= A Good Life



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Good Man + God's Love + Wisdom
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ECCLESIASTES:

Good Man + God's Love + Wisdom
= Dies Like A Fool



“More than anything else in the Bible, [Ecclesiastes] captures the futility and frustration of a fallen world: the drudgery of work, the emptiness of foolish pleasure and the mind-numbing tedium of everyday life.

- **Philip Ryken**



Think of Ecclesiastes as the only book of the Bible we know was written on a Monday morning, probably by a philosophy major.”

- Philip Ryken



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The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.

Ecclesiastes 1:1



Besides being wise, the Preacher also taught the people knowledge, weighing and studying and arranging many proverbs with great care. The Preacher sought to find words of delight, and uprightly he wrote words of truth.

Ecclesiastes 12:9-10



Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher,
vanity of vanities! All is vanity. What
does man gain by all the toil at which
he toils under the sun?

Ecclesiastes 1:2-3



VANITY – Hebel, “Vapor, Mist”



VANITY – Hebel, “Vapor, Mist”

UNDER THE SUN – Life here and now on
the earth



THESIS OF ECCLESIASTES:

Life under the sun is all vanity.



The sun rises, and the sun goes down,
and hastens to the place where it rises.
The wind blows to the south and goes
around to the north;

Ecclesiastes 1:5-7



around and around goes the wind, and on its circuits the wind returns. All streams run to the sea, but the sea is not full; to the place where the streams flow, there they flow again.

Ecclesiastes 1:5-7



Three Reasons “All is Vanity”:



Three Reasons “All is Vanity”:

1. Life is a mundane cycle.



All things are full of weariness; a man cannot utter it; the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing.

Ecclesiastes 1:8-10



What has been is what will be, and
what has been done is what will be
done, and there is nothing new under
the sun.

Ecclesiastes 1:8-10



Is there a thing of which it is said, “See, this is new”? It has been already in the ages before us.

Ecclesiastes 1:8-10



Three Reasons “All is Vanity”:

1. Life is a mundane cycle.



Three Reasons “All is Vanity”:

1. Life is a mundane cycle.
2. Life is elusive.

A generation goes, and a generation
comes, but the earth remains forever.

Ecclesiastes 1:4



There is no remembrance of former things, nor will there be any remembrance of later things yet to be among those who come after.

Ecclesiastes 1:11



Three Reasons “All is Vanity”:

1. Life is a mundane cycle.
2. Life is elusive.

Three Reasons “All is Vanity”:

1. Life is a mundane cycle.
2. Life is elusive.
3. Everyone dies and is forgotten.

I have seen everything that is done
under the sun, and behold, all is vanity
and a striving after wind.

Ecclesiastes 1:14



I have seen everything that is done
under the sun, and behold, all is vanity
and a striving after wind...BUT JESUS?

Ecclesiastes 1:14



“Surely the Christian way of looking at life is different? If I’m a follower of the Lord Jesus, doesn’t that change everything? It is true that knowing Christ does provide a whole new angle - the true angle - on what it means to be alive.



But the Preacher is not commenting on what life is like without Christ...[He's saying this is] just what the world is like. It's reality. It's the same for everyone, Christian or non-Christian...this is how things are.



Being a Christian doesn't stop this being true. Rather, it should make us the first to stop pretending that it isn't true."

- David Gibson



The beauty of the gospel is not that we magically escape the vanity of life under the sun.

The beauty of the gospel is that God has entered that vanity with us.



Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:58



Three Invitations of Ecclesiastes:



Three Invitations of Ecclesiastes:

1. Sacred Honesty



Three Invitations of Ecclesiastes:

1. Sacred Honesty
2. Sacred Mundanity

“The Horror of the Same Old Thing is one of the most valuable passions we have produced in the human heart – an endless source of heresies in religion, folly in counsel, infidelity in marriage, and inconstancy in friendship.”

- CS Lewis



Three Invitations of Ecclesiastes:

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Three Invitations of Ecclesiastes:

1. Sacred Honesty
2. Sacred Mundanity
3. Sacred Joy

“Because children have abounding vitality, because they are in spirit fierce and free, therefore they want things repeated and unchanged. They always say, "Do it again"; and the grown-up person does it again until he is nearly dead.



For grown-up people are not strong enough to exult in monotony. But perhaps God is strong enough to exult in monotony. It is possible that God says every morning, "Do it again" to the sun; and every evening, "Do it again" to the moon.



It may not be automatic necessity that makes all daisies alike; it may be that God makes every daisy separately, but has never gotten tired of making them.



It may be that He has the eternal appetite of infancy; for we have sinned and grown old, and our Father is younger than we.”

- GK Chesterton



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