

SERIES OVERVIEW

In the book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon sets out to discover if “life under the sun” is truly worth living. He goes on a journey throughout the book and finds himself originally declaring that everything under the sun is meaningless (Hebrew. Hebel—literally translated, vapor or breath. Used 38 times in this book). Solomon is overwhelmed with the truth that death is coming for every person, and that nothing worked for, earned, or pursued seems to have any lasting value. It’s not until Solomon starts focusing his attention on things “beyond the sun” that he recognizes life’s true meaning and purpose. He ultimately discovers that the whole purpose of man is to enjoy life and all its blessings, to live by faith, and to prepare for eternity by fearing God and keeping his commandments.

- [Watch Overview](#) (Watch as a group)

CONTEXT

The Preacher reflects on the futility of wisdom, toil, and pleasure, ultimately concluding both the wise and the foolish share the same fate, and true satisfaction can only be found in God.

THE BIG IDEA

We all die, and on that day everything we worked for stays here. The point of life is to enjoy life and walk with God until our days on earth are done.

SCRIPTURE: Ecclesiastes 2:12-26

12 So I turned to consider wisdom and madness and folly. For what can the man do who comes after the king? Only what has already been done. 13 Then I saw that there is more gain in wisdom than in folly, as there is more gain in light than in darkness.

Scripture continued: 14 The wise person has his eyes in his head, but the fool walks in darkness. And yet I perceived that the same event happens to all of them. 15 Then I said in my heart, “What happens to the fool will happen to me also. Why then have I been so very wise?” And I said in my heart that this also is vanity. 16 For of the wise as of the fool there is no enduring remembrance, seeing that in the days to come all will have been long forgotten. How the wise dies just like the fool! 17 So I hated life, because what is done under the sun was grievous to me, for all is vanity and a striving after wind. 18 I hated all my toil in which I toil under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to the man who will come after me, 19 and who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. 20 So I turned about and gave my heart up to despair over all the toil of my labors under the sun, 21 because sometimes a person who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave everything to be enjoyed by someone who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. 22 What has a man from all the toil and striving of heart with which he toils beneath the sun? 23 For all his days are full of sorrow, and his work is a vexation. Even in the night his heart does not rest. This also is vanity. 24 There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God, 25 for apart from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment? 26 For to the one who pleases him God has given wisdom and knowledge and joy, but to the sinner he has given the business of gathering and collecting, only to give to one who pleases God. This also is vanity and a striving after wind.

STARTER QUESTION

What is one thing that stood out to you from the sermon and why do you think God wants you to remember this truth?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Ecclesiastes 2:12-26. Underline any contrasting phrases like "wisdom and folly".

Read Luke 12:16-21 and compare it to Ecclesiastes 2:18-23.

What are some things in your life that are gifts from God that can be easy to overlook? How can you practice contentment in these areas?

What would it look like to enjoy God on a deeper level in your life?

What does it look like to live your life with an eternal perspective?

If my soul were to be required of me today, would I feel like I have set my life's goals toward Kingdom investments or worldly? What are things that I could do to orient my life more towards Kingdom investments?

When we read the Bible, we are not just reading a story and gaining information. We need to learn what the passage of scripture teaches us about who God is. What does this passage teach us about who God is and His character?

All To Him: How does this passage speak to our ATM Discipleship Journey as we "give our ALL to the One who gave His all for us?"

PRAYER (In gender based groups)

*Share praises, answered prayers, and prayer requests.

Closing Prayer (together as a group)

Heavenly Father, we are grateful to live in a country where we are free to worship you. May we never take this for granted. God, grant us the wisdom and desire to live our lives from an eternal perspective. Your grace is enough Jesus! Amen

REGISTER NOW FOR FALL



[INFO AND REGISTER HERE](#)