

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.

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CONTEXT

Ecclesiastes 7:15-8:1 reflects on the paradoxes and injustices observed in life, emphasizing the importance of wisdom and righteousness. The Preacher cautions against extremes and encourages seeking a balanced, God-fearing life.

THE BIG IDEA

Life doesn't always make sense. Instead of trying to figure it out, walk in wisdom and live for the glory of God.

SCRIPTURE: Ecclesiastes 7:15-8:1

15 In my vain life I have seen everything. There is a righteous man who perishes in his righteousness, and there is a wicked man who prolongs his life in his evildoing. 16 Be not overly righteous, and do not make yourself too wise. Why should you destroy yourself? 17 Be not overly wicked, neither be a fool. Why should you die before your time? 18 It is good that you should take hold of this, and from that withhold not your hand, for the one who fears God shall come out from both of them. 19 Wisdom gives strength to the wise man more than ten rulers who are in a city. 20 Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins. 21 Do not take to heart all the things that people say, lest you hear your servant cursing you. 22 Your heart knows that many times you yourself have cursed others. 23 All this I have tested by wisdom. I said, “I will be wise,” but it was far from me. 24 That which has been is far off, and deep, very deep; who can find it out? 25 I turned my heart to know and to search out and to seek wisdom and the scheme of things, and to know the wickedness of folly and the foolishness that is madness. 26 And I find something more bitter than death: the woman whose heart is snares and nets, and whose hands are fetters. He who pleases God escapes her, but the sinner is taken by her. 27 Behold, this is what I found, says the Preacher, while adding one thing to another to find the scheme of things—28 which my soul has sought repeatedly, but I have not found. One man among a thousand I found, but a woman among all these I have not found. 29 See, this alone I found, that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes. 8 Who is like the wise? And who knows the interpretation of a thing? A man's wisdom makes his face shine, and the hardness of his face is changed.

ICE BREAKER

Share something you have experienced or seen that just doesn't make sense to you? Answers may be fun (why we name "living" room or "rest" room) or more serious like how Jesus could go to the cross for a person like me.

GROUP DISCUSSION

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

Read verses 15-18. What does verse 16 tell us not to do? What do these 2 commands look like today and how are they related to the "white washed tombs" in Matt. 23:27?

Read verses 19-21. Which of these verses challenges you the most and why?

Read the words of Jesus in Matthew 15:18 and share how it relates to verses 20-21. Are you more apt to feel convicted because your own words are hurtful to others or be hurt by others words to you? Explain.

Read verses 23-26. *"The more you know, the more you know you don't know."* - Aristotle (& Einstein) How does this quote speak to Solomon's and our attempts to gain knowledge and wisdom?

One of the worst things Solomon finds in his search for wisdom and knowledge is the trap of sexual sin. Read 1 Cor. 6:18-20 and as a group develop a gameplan to remain sexually pure in our thoughts, eyes and actions. Why do you think God gives us specific things to know and do when it comes to sexual sin?

Discussion continued: Read 7:27-8:1.

As Solomon finishes this part of his sermon, what is his conclusion concerning his own wisdom and the wisdom of others?

We, like Solomon, need to look back to what he wrote in Proverbs 9:10 to know where to begin living a life of wisdom. How can this passage help us face this life with courage, instead of confusion?

PRAYER (In gender based groups)

*Share praises, answered prayers, and prayer requests.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Men's Discipleship begins 9/2 [INFO](#)

Institute starts Sept. 8 [INFO](#)

Women's Discipleship begins 9/16 [INFO](#)

Scholarships Available!



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