

## **Ecclesiastes– Under the Sun**

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

*“We pursue being a disciple making family: surrendered to Jesus, transformed by the gospel, and saturated in His word.”*

In Ecclesiastes we are brought into a reality that we can all relate to. Living in a broken and fallen, sin-filled world, can seem like a treadmill of futility. Is there any meaning to this life? Is there any purpose? Solomon points out that nothing changes, there is nothing new, and we will not be remembered. Well, that should be enough to discourage and depress us. However, Ecclesiastes is written to make us long for the work of Christ and the gospel to give our life meaning, purpose, and to make us new. In Christ even the smallest, most mundane things we do can be for His glory and for His renown.

1. Ecclesiastes 1:2 uses the phrase “vanity of vanities.” The Hebrew term used here, hebel, can mean breath, mist, or meaninglessness. It is found over 30 times in Ecclesiastes. What is the picture that is portrayed with this word?
2. There is an example of nature using the sun, wind, and streams to express the rhythmic routine and monotony of life and work. Nothing really changes. How do you tend to deal with this in your own life? Where do you struggle with this the most? What is the response to this routine?
3. In verse 8 we see that there is no satisfaction. The eye is not satisfied, nor the ear filled with hearing. How do we see this played out in our culture today? What are some examples that you can see? What about Christ followers? Is there a struggle here as well? If so, how?
4. There is nothing new under the sun. There may be new technologies that allow for different experiences, ease of use, or comfort. There is really nothing new that has not already been experienced in principle or function. It’s all just an adaptation of something that has already been. How do we see this obsession with “new” impact our lives? What about among the Christ followers?
5. There is a reality that our lives will not be remembered after a few generations pass. Few people make a significant impact on history and will live in obscurity. How should this impact our lives as Christ followers? If in Christ our lives have meaning what should be our guiding focus?
6. Reading this text can lead one to despair and discouragement, however, for one who fears God and enjoys Him in relationship with Christ there is great purpose. Even the smallest, most mundane routine can have great value. The Preacher is

questioning the significance of one's work and toil. How does the gospel impact our work and life? How should we view our work and our life?