

Ecclesiastes

Chapters 1 & 2

I. Chapter 1

- A. Solomon's Background:
- B. The context of whole book - _____ in the things of this world (Ecc 1:2-3)
- C. Observation of nature and all the movement of nature (Ecc 1:4-8)
- D. There is nothing new under the Sun (Ecc 1:9-11)
- E. The vanity of _____ (Ecc 1:12-18)
 - 1. King Solomon is trying to make himself happy by filling himself up with knowledge – thinking that knowing stuff will make himself happy.

V13- travail- hard work to learn all that

V14- all work leads to emptiness because you get nothing substantial in return

V16 to 1V8 – Solomon got it all, done it all, made it to the top ...and still empty and miserable.

Solomon's conclusion for this section: Ecc 1:18 For in much wisdom is much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow.

Chapter 2

- A. The Vanity of _____ (Ecc 2:1-3)
 - 1. Solomon is sitting at the _____!
- B. Riches and possessions - “ _____ ” (Ecc 2: 4-10).
 - 2:4-6 stuff does not make people feel fulfilled:
 - a. Bigger House
 - b. More Cars
 - c. More clothes
 - d. Vacation homes
 - Solomon had it ALL!
- C. Solomon's Conclusion for this section - all this is a waste (Ecc 2:11)
 - 1. Look at all the people that achieved EVERYTHING that they wanted, where are they now?
 - 2. People work their whole lives trying to get rich enough to not work- and have EVERYTHING – and most are miserable and many of them kill themselves.

Solomon's conclusion: _____ do not lead to fulfillment!

D. The Vanity of living _____ (Ecc 2:12-17)

1. Solomon is correct - being wise is better than being a fool, while alive....but all die and all are forgotten the same.
2. Result of trying to live wisely - hated life!! **Emptiness to the point of not wanting to live.**

E. Vanity of _____ (2:18-23)

1. Can't take it with you- leave it all to someone else- even a fool!
2. Never saw a hearse towing a U-Haul

F. Solomon's Conclusion: Man's view _____ (Ecc 2: 24-26)

1. Notice the _____ – an unsaved or backslidden man.
2. Nothing matters but to eat and drink and hang out.
3. Has no eternal outlook at all - no focus on eternal rewards.
4. This is so prevalent a problem that Solomon repeats this same thought over and over throughout Ecclesiastes. – almost identically repeated 4 times.
5. Solomon does correctly acknowledge that the good things such as food, drink are from the LORD.
6. And the man who has dedicated himself to God does, with thanks, acknowledge and enjoy God's provisions on earth.
7. But the servant of God however is instructed in Eph 5:16 to redeem the time, because the days are evil....so his life goals are always on the eternal and not just the provisions here.
8. Ungodly man says party today for tomorrow we die – making that their goal in life.,
9. Also note the deception - Ungodly man also flatters themselves to be in God's favor simply because (in God's mercy) God allows them to enjoy such things as food and wine. This is deception of the devil- they believe that they must be OK with God because they are not lacking!

Conclusion:

A man that does not have an eternal focus will be miserable.

Both Solomon (God) and History has shown us that the things of this world will NOT give us fulfillment – and in fact the exact opposite is true.