

Ecclesiastes

Chapter 3 & 4

I. Chapter 3

A. The vanity of our _____.(3:1-9)

1. Time was created by God (when he created the sun, moon and stars) so we humans could keep track of our events.
2. Everything has its season and we humans, for the most part, do not control those seasons (like birth or death or when spring comes...).
3. For example, no matter how hard we work we can not change the time of our death

Ecc 8:8 Says; *There is* no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither *hath he* power in the day of death: and *there is* no discharge in *that* war; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it.

- a. No discharge – we will all face it – rich poor, wise – fools
 - b. We all know that when we hit 70's, 80's or some 90's we will all die.
 - c. Same for so many other things in our lives – we are not in charge!
4. Verses 9 - 10 are Solomon saying why bother- we live life but it really doesn't seem to matter.. All work and problems – and we really don't control any of it.

B. By contrast – God does control time and there is excellency in what He does. (3:11-15)

1. We know from Genesis Chapter 1 that God did make everything – He even declared His creation Good! Because God does everything perfectly.
2. Our world was then corrupted by sin, but even now, what remains is still incredibly beautiful. (PS19)

C. God Shall Judge Man's Works. (Ecc 3:16-18)

1. Verse 16 Shows that men know that they will be judged and that often man's judgment is unjust.
2. Verse 17 Solomon clearly understands that there is a just judgment to comefrom God
 - a. Every part of the globe, every religion. Man has a conscience. – look at the phrase
“ _____ ”
3. Without a savior, man is filthy in sin against God - men see themselves as beasts. (Isa 6:5, Lk 5:8)

D. The Vanity _____ . (Ecc 3:19-22)

1. At death, your body immediately starts the decay back to dust. (Gen 3:19)
2. Your Spirit (life) immediately returns to God. (Ecc 8:8, 12:7)
3. Your Soul if a Christian is immediately present with the Lord. (2Cor 5:8)
4. Your soul if not a Christian is sent directly to Hell. (Ps 9:17)

II. Chapter 4

A. Vanity of _____ . (Ecc 4:1)

1. No comforter- no Jesus and no Holy Spirit for unbelieving.
2. Yes – the world is evil and oppressive now BUT the believer can never think that he is better off dead or not having been born.
3. Regardless of the situation - the believer brings glory to God throughout his life, and forever after.
4. Unsaved people should not seek death – because life is keeping them out of hell.

B. The vanity of _____ . (Ecc 4:4)

C. The vanity of idleness. (Ecc 4:5-6)

D. The vanity of the workaholic. (Ecc 4:7-8)

1. You have to decide – are you living to work, or working to live?
2. Is your goal MAXIMUM money – or money enough to support your family and ministry?

E. The Benefit of friendship, and marriage. (Ecc 4:9-12)

1. Christ sent disciples out 2 by 2.
2. We married people minister together.
3. With Christ, we are a 3-fold cord.

F. The vanity of _____ . (Ecc 4:13-16)

1. These are an unusual set of verses
2. Solomon is likely speaking of himself as the foolish king
3. Second Child – king's son – person's son- heir to the throne
4. Speculation - Probably Solomon sees his people, seeing him as old and wanting, are longing for his son (Rehoboam) to take Solomon's place.
5. He is depressed realizing all his power and glory will soon be gone.