

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

- I. Overview
 - a. Context: Under the sun
 - b. Common definitions
 - i. Vanity = vapor
 - ii. Vexation of spirit = longing of soul, chasing the wind
 - iii. No profit = no advantage
 - c. The best way to view things (filtering through good wisdom)
 - i. Colossians 1:16; 2:3
 - ii. Romans 1:18-20
 - d. View Eccl 2:1-11 through...
 - i. Solomon
 - ii. Jesus
- II. Worldly wisdom & incorrect conclusions
 - a. Ecclesiastes 1:1-18, Summary
 - i. Since the creation of the world, nature and man alike have been engaged in a monotonous business. The cycles of natural events such as the wind and the sun have remained unchanged for millennia; likewise, man labors endlessly, yet fails to reach or obtain anything new or substantial; he merely labors until death, and a new generation takes his place. In his life, man attempts to find meaning regarding those things which are done upon earth, a truly evil business given by God, because he cannot reach any satisfying conclusion, seeing that the apparent brokenness and emptiness of life are simply how things are. Because of this, it is ultimately only empty and painful to pursue wisdom and knowledge, or to hope in restoration.
 - b. Ecclesiastes 1:16a; 2:1-11
 - i. Vs 16
 - 1. Communed = to speak kindly; console
 - ii. Vs 2:1-10
 - 1. Mirth = pleasure
 - a. Wine
 - b. Foolishness
 - c. Unrestrained living
 - 2. Vs 3
 - a. Solomon's claims
 - iii. Vs 11
 - 1. Conclusion regarding all pleasures and excess
- III. Spiritual wisdom & Christ-centered conclusions
 - a. Ecclesiastes 1:1-18, Contrast to Solomon's conclusions
 - i. A person who is led by under-the-sun wisdom will find life to be monotonous and toilsome and will grow weary in pursuing Jesus; but someone who is led by the wisdom of God's Word will see value and promise in all things, even in that which is common or usual, and will endure in pursuing Jesus; that man shall experience fresh, new life, and he will enjoy life's pursuits, finding hope, joy, and the beauty of God within all things.
 - b. **Q:** When you are confronted with emptiness or lack, what is your next step? Christ or pleasure? Jesus or laughter?
 - i. **Q:** When you sow and reap the reward, and the reward is lacking, where do you go?
 - 1. John 4:13-14; 6:35
 - c. Ecclesiastes 1:16a, 2:1-3
 - i. Disappointment and/or conviction in the lack of fulfillment in things/pursuits
 - 1. The pursuit of sinful things, the trusting of them, by God's design brings sorrow.
 - a. Jeremiah 2:13, 19, 37
 - b. Those without Jesus or who do not cling to him will have no lasting satisfaction
 - 2. The answer to conviction is not to say peace, peace when there is no peace.
 - a. Jeremiah 6:14-15
 - b. Ezekiel 13:10-16
 - c. C.f., Ecclesiastes 8:11 – First a crack, then later a fall

- d. Ecclesiastes 2:3
 - i. Acquainting = to act, to guide/drive (a beast)
 - 1. Contradictory (wisdom & for others)
 - 2. C.f., drunken investor-manager
 - 3. C.f., Jehu
 - a. 2 Kings 10:16, 29-31
 - ii. Solomon always had the answer & so do we.
 - iii. Seek God in His Word and obey Him
 - 1. Deuteronomy 17:18-19, Kings were to write a copy of the law. So he had it for sure
 - a. Deuteronomy 32:46-47; 30:19-20
 - b. Joshua 1:7-8
 - c. Hebrews 2:1, John 6:63
 - i. Seek to know Jesus Christ through His revealed word and obey Him

- e. Ecclesiastes 2:4-11
 - i. Vs 10, *“my heart rejoiced in all my labor: and this was my portion of all my labor”*
 - 1. C.f., Fasting, Giving, Prayer – Matthew 6:2, 5 *“receiving their reward in full.”*
 - 2. Choose eternal over temporary
 - a. Proverbs 20:21
 - i. C.f., Hebrews 12:16, Esau & inheritance
 - b. Psalms 16:5 – Lord is our inheritance

IV. Conclusions that reveal Jesus’ glory/character

- a. We must look to Jesus to remedy the things Solomon saw that were lacking
 - i. Isaiah 8:22 – looking to earth brings more darkness/sorrow
 - 1. Isaiah 9:2, Colossians 3:1-3 – look to Jesus
 - 2. Psalms 63:5-6 – meditation on God brings satisfaction
 - ii. **Looking unto Jesus gives us light and satisfaction**
- b. Ecclesiastes 1:16
 - i. Matthew 12:42 – Greater than Solomon
 - 1. Comfort ourselves through God’s greatness, not own.
 - a. Psalms 29:1-2 – Ascribe to Him, not to self
 - b. **Jesus’ greatness comforts and delights the heart, not our own**
 - 2. Contrast riches and position on earth of Jesus vs Solomon
 - ii. Jesus refused fleshly comforts, to be tempted by those.
 - 1. Matthew 4:1-4 – God’s word over temporary pleasure
 - 2. Proverbs 23:1-3 – Consider what the world offers
- c. Ecclesiastes 2:1-11
 - i. Ezekiel 1:26-28
 - ii. Isaiah 6:1-4
 - 1. Proverbs 8:30
 - a. Jesus had joy in heaven. And who wouldn’t? Look at all that He had.
 - iii. Philippians 2:7, Romans 8:3, 2 Corinthians 8:9
 - iv. Isaiah 53:2-3
 - v. Psalms 69:12
 - 1. Hebrews 1:9, 12:2
 - a. Jesus’ position/treatment before and after His incarnation
 - b. **Joy does not come from pleasures of this life**
- d. Ecclesiastes 2:10
 - i. Solomon’s implied principle
 - 1. If something is good/truly life giving, I ought to be able to fully go after it and give it my all, and it will not break under the pressure
 - a. Luke 14:33 – Forsake all for Christ
 - b. Deuteronomy 31:6 – Jesus The Rock will not fail us
 - 2. **Jesus is a worthy Rock to put all our weight upon**