

Ecclesiastes 2:12-26

- I. Overview, 1:1-3
 - a. Solomon's pursuit: "*what profit hath a man...*"
 - b. Solomon's context: "*under the sun*"
 - c. Solomon's general conclusion: "*all is vanity*"
- II. Ecclesiastes 1:1-2:11, Summary: Solomon thus far has found life to be monotonous, boring, evil, and fruitless. Nothing truly novel can be learned or done; life is irreconcilably broken; and all the pleasures available to man are all lacking, leading to nothing but emptiness and grief. However, we have seen that despite Solomon's conclusions, a man who is led by Christ-centered wisdom and has Jesus as His foundation, will find life to be full of joy, hope, and beauty. That man will take delight in his labor, for in it he sees more of God's character and; he will also find satisfaction in life, for his chief pursuit is Jesus, to be near to Him, learn of Him, and obey Him.
- III. Ecclesiastes 1:17-18
 - a. General overview of 2:12-26 (summary then detail, common)
 - i. Under-the-sun, pursuing wisdom and knowledge
 - 1. Ch 1, Lots of brokenness, lots of evils
 - 2. Ch 2, No reward for wisdom
 - ii. Vs. a Christ-centered view of wisdom and knowledge
 - 1. John 17:3 – *Knowledge of God is eternal life*
 - 2. Philippians 3:7-8 – *a worthy pursuit*
- IV. Ecclesiastes 2:12-26, Summary: Though wisdom is better than foolishness, yet because acting wisely ultimately bears no lasting effect, seeing everyone dies alike and will be forgotten and leave their works to others, it is ultimately vanity and a great grief to practice. Therefore, Solomon says it is best to just enjoy what you can while you are alive. However, the man empowered by Christ's wisdom sees that the wise man inherits glory and shall taste better fruit after his death, for there is great profit in living wisely for Jesus. Therefore, live for others and live for Jesus, to lift up and exalt Him.
- V. Ecclesiastes 2:12-17
 - a. Ecclesiastes 2:13-15
 - i. Wisdom is better than foolishness (pre-eminence)
 - 1. Light vs darkness. Wisdom allows us to be productive, spiritually & otherwise
 - a. Foolishness is akin to blindness
 - i. Matthew 15:14
 - ii. John 9:4-5; 11:18-10; 12:35-36
 - 1. Work in the light of God's countenance and wisdom. Today!
 - 2. Do not reject that which is available to you today
 - a. Isaiah 55:6
 - ii. The reward for foolishness and wisdom
 - 1. Foolishness leads to destruction
 - a. Proverbs 1:20-33
 - 2. Those who are wise shall inherit glory
 - a. Proverbs 3:35
 - i. Colossians 3:4, John 17:22
 - b. Ecclesiastes 2:16 - *Solomon's focus is on his name and works being remembered*
 - i. When Jesus is lifted up and the focus, our attitudes and conclusions regarding work and regarding wisdom are corrected.
 - 1. Hebrews 12:2
 - ii. Error in focus, Instead, focus on Christ, be His helper
 - 1. C.f., Genesis 2:20, 1 Corinthians 11:3
 - 2. Jesus' pre-eminence & longevity
 - a. Psalms 72:17; 102:12 – *Name & person*
 - b. Psalms 104:31; 145:13 – *Kingdom and glory*
 - c. Psalms 33:11 – *Thoughts, words*
 - 3. Jesus shall endure, not us. Therefore seek His glory, not own
 - a. Proverbs 17:19b – *exalting gate*
 - b. Isaiah 65:17 – *These things forgotten so live for Christ*
 - c. Malachi 3:16, Proverbs 20:6 – *speak of Him not self*
 - iii. Error in statement, Those in Christ are not forgotten by God
 - 1. Isaiah 49:15-16 – *graven on hands*
 - a. Exodus 28:29-30
 - 2. Psalms 112:6b – *righteous in everlasting remembrance*
 - 3. 2 Corinthians 6:9 – *as unknown yet well known*
 - 4. Will be judged, thus not forgotten
 - a. 2 Corinthians 5:10
- VI. Ecclesiastes 2:18-26
 - a. 2:17-18 – God wants us to rejoice in our work
 - i. Deuteronomy 12:18
 - b. 2:18-23 – Solomon hates that he must leave his work to others
 - c. 2:24 – Solomon's attitude is selfish – *my legacy and my enjoyment*
 - i. God created everything in wisdom
 - 1. Proverbs 3:19
 - ii. God gives it to man
 - 1. Genesis 1:28; 9:1-2
 - 2. Psalms 8:6
 - 3. C.f., prodigal son
 - iii. Ephesians 4:28 – *Work to bless and give*
 - 1. Acts 20:35