

'All scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.'
2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17

The Book of Ecclesiastes

Chapter 6



Kerrville Bible Church

Fall Semester

Ken Johnson

Ecclesiastes

Review – Reflections on his long life ...



- ❑ First 2 Chapters, Solomon looks at life four ways and makes case it is not worth living – “hebel”
- ❑ But in Chapter 3, he looks again, with the FEAR of God in mind
- ❑ He examines the Monotony of Life, the Futility of Wealth, the Vanity of Wisdom and the Certainty of Death.
- ❑ He shows life is hard, oppressive, with tragedies and unanswered questions. Sadly, most of the world lives meaningless, soap bubble lives!
- ❑ But Solomon shows the Fear of God changes everything in the lives of some ...





Ecclesiastes Review

- ❑ The “Fear of God” is the difference ...
- ❑ Man must FIRST be a Believer if he is ever to enjoy living as God created and intended him to live.
- ❑ The “Fear of God” is not an attitude of terror. It is:
 - A commitment of the total being
 - To trust, believe and obey the living God, and
 - To give God all reverence, honor and glory
 - As Sovereign Lord, who reigns over the whole creation
- ❑ And, in the Believer, there is the genuine fear of discipline

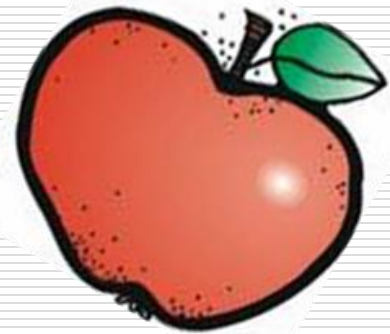
Elohim!

“For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, and He scourges every son whom He receives” Hebrews 12:6

Ecclesiastes Review



- ❑ To Find Satisfaction in life – Believers enjoy one apple at a time!
- ❑ God gives Believers the Gift:
 - To completely enjoy the apple they have at the moment
 - To gratefully give thanks to God in every circumstance because they know He is in control for His glory and their good
 - To never fear death because life has been so satisfying they are ready – at any moment – to go home to the Lord





Ecclesiastes

The Futility of Wealth (5:10 – 6:09)

¹There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, and it is **prevalent** among men – ²a man to whom God has given riches and wealth and honor so that his soul lacks nothing of all that he desires; yet God has not empowered him to enjoy them, but a stranger enjoys them. This is vanity and a severe affliction.

- ❑ **ENJOYING WEALTH** - Riches Without Satisfaction
- ❑ God may grant a man wealth, honor, family, long life and other “outward” goods - without granting him the ability to enjoy any of it
- ❑ Without God, there is no meaning, no joy, no answers in this life
- ❑ It is all fleeting, meaningless, soap bubbles ... “hebel”
- ❑ Contrast two apples ...



Ecclesiastes

The Futility of Wealth (5:10 – 6:09)

³If a man fathers a hundred children and lives many years, however many they be, but his soul is not satisfied with good things, and he does not even have a proper burial, then I say, "Better the miscarriage than he, ⁴for it comes in futility and goes into obscurity; and its name is covered in obscurity. ⁵It never sees the sun and it never knows anything; it is better off than he.

- ❑ **ENJOYING WEALTH** - More Riches Without Satisfaction ...
- ❑ Long life and 100 children – Mark of God’s favor to the Jew
- ❑ But unloved, unlamented – no proper burial
- ❑ “Not satisfied” – could not enjoy money or family
- ❑ Makes no sense! What was the point of his life?
- ❑ Solomon says, “better the miscarriage than he”



Ecclesiastes

The Futility of Wealth (5:10 – 6:09)

⁶Even if the other man lives a thousand years twice and does not enjoy good things--do not all go to one place?

- ❑ **ENJOYING WEALTH** - Riches without Satisfaction
- ❑ In 2,000 years, he can't "enjoy" ... in Hebrew: "to see"
- ❑ God doesn't even let him see his blessings ... because he does not receive these gifts thankfully
- ❑ His long, joyless life was a compounded sorrow
- ❑ Rich man and stillborn baby both end up in same place - the grave - having experienced no joy
- ❑ No advantage - Was his life worthwhile at all????
- ❑ Hebel!



Ecclesiastes

The Futility of Wealth (5:10 – 6:09)

⁷All a man's labor is for his mouth and yet the appetite is not satisfied.

- ❑ **ENJOYING WEALTH** - Labor Without Satisfaction.
- ❑ A man's life is spent laboring to earn money to purchase food, shelter, clothing and other material things.
- ❑ "Appetite" can also be translated as "soul".
- ❑ No matter how hard he works, his appetite/soul can **never** be satisfied by money or the material things it can buy.

"For He satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things." Psalm 107:9



Ecclesiastes

The Futility of Wealth (5:10 – 6:09)

⁸For what advantage does the wise man have over the fool? What advantage does the poor man have, knowing how to walk before the living?

- ❑ **ENJOYING WEALTH** - Labor without Satisfaction
- ❑ The answer to both questions is: “None!”
- ❑ Both are condemned to dissatisfaction “under the sun” without God.
- ❑ A wise man may have an advantage over a fool because of his education.
- ❑ A fool could even have an advantage over a wise man in knowing how to live a simple life.
- ❑ But, without God, death eliminates any advantages!



Ecclesiastes

The Futility of Wealth (5:10 – 6:09)

⁹What the eyes see is better than what the soul desires. This too is futility and a striving after wind.

- ❑ **ENJOYING WEALTH** - Labor without Satisfaction
- ❑ Warning – don't focus so intently on career and making money that life passes you by
- ❑ Focus on the apple set before you
- ❑ Fantasy doesn't make for reality
- ❑ Enjoy life in the moment - instead of futilely wasting your life desiring and striving for what you don't have
- ❑ "Hebel"



Ecclesiastes

God's Sovereignty (6:10-12)

^{10a}Whatever exists has already been named, and it is known what man is;

- ❑ **GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY** - ordains life to be as He desires it to be
 - Whatever has happened was ordained
 - What happens to man was foreknown
- ❑ We can make our plans, work to the best of our abilities, and exercise control where possible...
- ❑ But God determines the outcomes, according to His purposes and His plan
- ❑ Everything is for His Glory and Our Good!
- ❑ Take that to the Bank!



Ecclesiastes

God's Sovereignty (6:10-12)

^{10b}for he cannot dispute with him who is stronger than he is.

- **GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY** - ordains life to be as He desires it to be
 - But ... man doesn't like that idea ... it isn't fair!
 - Many come up with arguments ... ideas ... theories
- When man argues with God, only two outcomes:
 - "... they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind" Romans 1:28
 - They realize the obvious – that arguing with God is an exercise in futility – and they Fear Him!

"To argue with God is to argue with the very power that makes it possible to argue at all." CS Lewis



Ecclesiastes

God's Sovereignty (6:10–12)

¹¹For there are many words which increase futility. What then is the advantage to a man?

- ❑ **GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY** – ordains life to be as He desires it to be
- ❑ “Words” can be best translated as “things” – to include words, along with wealth, power, pleasure, wisdom, etc.
- ❑ A little of these things can sustain us comfortably
- ❑ A great amount of these things increases our comfort relatively little
- ❑ But increases our toil, cares, fears – our vanity greatly!
- ❑ Why do we play this game?



Ecclesiastes

God's Sovereignty (6:10-12)

¹²For who knows what is good for a man during his lifetime, during the few years of his futile life? He will spend them like a shadow.

- ❑ **GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY** - ordains life to be as He desires it to be
- ❑ Who knows what is "Good" for a man?
 - Man spends so much time in this short life searching for the answers to living our lives in the best possible way
 - Consider all the sources we "consult" to find those answers
 - Foolish man! Where is the **truth** found?
- ❑ Spend/**Waste** those years like a **shadow**
 - Fleeting, little light, little substance



Ecclesiastes

God's Sovereignty (6:10–12)

^{12b}For who can tell a man what will be after him under the sun?

- ❑ **GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY** - ordains life to be as He desires it to be
- ❑ Only God knows the future of a man
- ❑ Man would be wise to :
 - Accept his own limitations,
 - FEAR GOD now and always
 - Put his full dependence and trust in the Lord

¹¹*"You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever."* (PS 16:11)

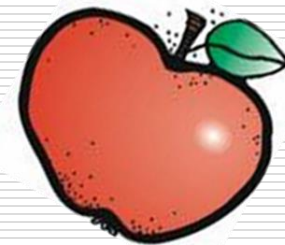


Ecclesiastes

God's Sovereignty (6:10–12)

^{12b}For who can tell a man what will be after him under the sun?

- ❑ **GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY** - ordains life to be as He desires it to be
- ❑ What will be after him "under the sun"?
- ❑ **ANSWER:** There can be riches with enjoyment and labor with satisfaction, IF we FEAR Him:
 - Accept God's gifts gratefully
 - Enjoy your apple in the moment
- ❑ **Terrible News: Some Fear but cannot release control and worry ...**



The Book of Ecclesiastes



"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." Psalm 111:10"
