

Welcome To Sunday Night Bible Fellowship

Every word inspired.



Every word proclaimed.

“We proclaim Him, warning every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man mature in Christ.” Col 1:28

“Chasing After Wind”

Eccl. 1:11-18

March 15, 2020

Closed System



The Sun

The Earth

Mankind

Activities

No God

LIFE'S MEANING AND PURPOSE

Where is academia?

Where are the philosophers?

Where are the politicians?

Ecc1 1:1-10

- 1 The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.
- 2 "Vanity of vanities," says the Preacher, "Vanity of vanities! All is vanity."
- 3 What advantage does man have in all his work Which he does under the sun?
- 4 A generation goes and a generation comes, But the earth remains forever.
- 5 Also, the sun rises and the sun sets; And hastening to its place it rises there again.
- 6 Blowing toward the south, Then turning toward the north, The wind continues swirling along; And on its circular courses the wind returns.
- 7 All the rivers flow into the sea, Yet the sea is not full. To the place where the rivers flow, There they flow again.
- 8 All things are wearisome; Man is not able to tell it. The eye is not satisfied with seeing, Nor is the ear filled with hearing.
- 9 That which has been is that which will be, And that which has been done is that which will be done. o there is nothing new under the sun.
- 10 Is there anything of which one might say, "See this, it is new"? Already it has existed for ages Which were before us.

11 There is no remembrance of earlier things;
And also of the later things which will occur,
There will be for them no remembrance
Among those who will come later still.

12 I, the Preacher, have been king over Israel in Jerusalem.

13 And I set my mind to seek and explore by wisdom concerning all that has been done under heaven. It is a grievous task which God has given to the sons of men to be afflicted with.

14 I have seen all the works which have been done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and striving after wind.

15 What is crooked cannot be straightened and what is lacking cannot be counted.

16 I said to myself, "Behold, I have magnified and increased wisdom more than all who were over Jerusalem before me; and my mind has observed a wealth of wisdom and knowledge."

17 And I set my mind to know wisdom and to know madness and folly; I realized that this also is striving after wind.

18 Because in much wisdom there is much grief, and increasing knowledge results in increasing pain.

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- In all of the monotonous cycles of life nothing changes. But **YOU** change because you're here today and gone tomorrow. And when you're dead and buried.....the sun will continue to rise and set and the winds will continue to blow and the rains will continue to fall and they won't even notice that you're gone.
- There is good news and bad news in this verse. The good news is for those people who worry about what others think about them - in the end, no one will think about them at all. The bad news is for those who seek to leave some sort of legacy - in the end, no one will think about them at all.
- "The world will lament you for an hour and forget you forever." - Mark Twain
- Because people learn so little from the past, the same mistakes are going to have to be made over and over again, resulting in the same consequences, the same defeats, and the same rewards. It all seemed so futile to Solomon, that he had worked so hard, so long, to do what he had done only to realize it was not going to last. It was not even going to be remembered.
- Man never learns. Each generation ignores what previous generations have learned. They do not think it important enough to remember. And what they themselves do and learn will then in its turn also be forgotten by future generations.

Spinning Wheel

What goes up must come down

Spinnin' wheel got to go 'round

Talkin' 'bout your troubles it's a cryin' sin

Ride a painted pony let the spinnin' wheel spin

You got no money and you got no home

Spinnin' wheel all alone

Talkin' 'bout your troubles and you never learn

Ride a painted pony let the spinnin' wheel turn



O God, Our Help In Ages Past

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Bears all its sons away;
They fly, forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day.

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- Again Solomon wants to remind us that because of his position as King, he has the resources available to do a full experiment and research all of life and what it had to offer.
- There are liberal theologians who use this verse to prove that Solomon is not the author of Ecclesiastes. Why? Because they say he speaks in the past tense meaning that the author used to be king but was no longer, We know that Solomon was king until he died so they say this eliminates Solomon as the author.
- **2 things:**
 - 1 . The Hebrew verb that is used here is a perfect tense. Therefore here it is to be translated "have been king and still is king." Solomon is saying he has been and still is king over Israel.
 2. There is no one else that fills these 3 qualifications stated: 1. king. – only 2 individuals ruled over Israel from Jerusalem – David & Solomon. Verse 1 tells us the author is the "son of David" so that eliminates David
 2. over Israel. 3. in Jerusalem – this eliminates Rehoboam, Solomon's son, who was also king but ruled the northern kingdom after Solomon died and Israel was divided. He ruled from Samaria and not from Jerusalem.

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“And I set my mind to seek and explore . . .”

- “mind” לב (leb) – heart. Hebrew here doesn’t have a word for mind. No such thing as “head” knowledge and “heart” knowledge in Hebrew, it is all the same. Heart points to the combined use of mind and will in the quest for knowledge. Thinking and understanding and deciding are all done by the heart.

Prov 23:7

7 For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.

- These 2 words, “seek and explore” are not synonymous.
- “seek” לְדַרוֹשׁ (lidrowsh) - penetrating into the **depth** of a subject.
- “explore” - וְלַתּוֹר (walaatuwr)- surveying across the **breadth** of a subject.
- Solomon has all of his bases covered – depth and breadth.

“by wisdom”

- The word “wisdom” in the OT comes from the root word meaning “skill”.
- Solomon at this point in his life is being driven by his flesh (OSN) and going to use his skill of wisdom to research and investigate.

“concerning all that has been done under heaven.”

- “under heaven” – same as “under the sun.” This investigation is strictly horizontal – nothing vertical, nothing “above the sun.” This is from human viewpoint.
- Solomon is trying to find meaning and purpose in “all of the wrong places.”
- It is sad when a believer abandons God’s Word and seeks fulfillment from this world. Solomon is going to go down every rabbit trail possible.

It is a grievous task which God has given to the sons of men to be afflicted with.

- “grievous” – burdensome, heavy.
- “sons of men” אָדָם - Adam. This is important because it tells why we are afflicted.
- We are afflicted because of the Fall in the garden of Eden.
- God has deliberately built a system into this world, as the result of the Fall, where life is meaningless and empty without Him. That is part of the curse.
- Man has a desire and need for that which brings meaning and fulfillment to life. He searches but does not find it.
- So man carries this weight, this burden to find meaning but is unable to find it.

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“I have seen all” – Solomon completed his task. His conclusion was not based on insufficient data.

- **“behold”** – perk up, pay attention to my conclusion.
- **“All is hebel”** (vanity, empty, meaningless)
- Solomon says that for all of his seeking, exploring, researching, and investigating, he can’t find anything of meaning and purpose under heaven.

“Striving after wind” – running after something you will never grasp. It is trying to chase down the impossible.

Why is it so difficult?

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2 reasons its “striving after wind”:

1. Whenever Solomon uncovered conditions in his investigating that were crooked or bent, they could not be straightened.

Ecc1 7:13

3 Consider the work of God,

For who is able to straighten what He has bent?

15 What is crooked cannot be straightened and what is lacking cannot be counted.

2 reasons its “striving after wind”:

1. Whenever Solomon uncovered conditions in his investigating that were crooked or bent, they could not be straightened.
 2. Whenever Solomon discovered that people’s needs were lacking, the needs not only could not be met, they could not even be counted.
- So the problems of this world cannot be fixed and the needs were too great to be analyzed.
 - Under the curse that God has put upon this earth, as a result of the Fall, it is totally futile to try to come up with meaning and purpose.

Rom 8:19-20

19 For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.

20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it,

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- So the problems of this world cannot be fixed and the needs were too great to be analyzed.
 - Under the curse that God has put upon this earth, as a result of the Fall, it is totally futile to try to come up with meaning and purpose.
 - Solomon realized how limited, powerless, and helpless he was to come up with a solution to the emptiness of man.

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- Solomon had given careful attention to the information he had gathered.
- He had gathered more information than anyone before him in Jerusalem, and he had given greater study to it than anyone else ever had.
- No one can say “but I have something else to try”, or “I am smarter than Solomon”. No you aren’t. You don’t have the intellect or the funds to do this type of research.
- All that information he accumulated was useless to make any changes that would produce meaningful results.
- Today people travel more, observe more, compile more statistics, are surveyed more, spend more time googling for information, and yet it has not made us wiser, or happier, or more fulfilled than the last generation.

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- Solomon wants us to know that he went to the ends of the spectrum – from wisdom on one end to madness and folly on the other – no stone was left unturned.
- **“madness”** – foolishness, the acts of a fool.
- **“folly”** – rash behavior. One who does moronic, stupid things.
- Solomon is saying he even tried senseless and foolish conduct but came up with nothing.
- Try catching the wind with your hands. You can chase the wind all day long and all night long and you’ll never catch it. That is what it is like “under the sun” to try to find meaning and purpose in life.

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- Wisdom does not remove life's problems, it just shows you how many problems there are.
- The more you see and experience the world around you, the more grief and despair you will have. It only leads to sorrow and sadness.

“Every place he had investigated was full of misery. Every course of action he had surveyed produced more failure than success. Every national, social, or ethnic group he had consulted was infected with abuse, dishonesty, selfishness, and hurt. Every situation he had reviewed was as full of trouble and hopelessness as every other. No one had any usable answers. The more he had learned, the more he had become discouraged. He was more sorrowful after all the study he had done than before.”

- Mike Black