

ECCLESIASTES

Community Group Guide

Week of May, 7

“ALL IS VANITY” (ECCLESIASTES 1:1-11)

Sermon Summary: King Solomon is near the end of his life and wants to teach all of us the vanity of life “under the sun.” A life lived untethered to God is like running on a treadmill your entire life and then dying: *meaningless*. The good news is that God has sent his son to die for us under the sun, so that we might live “over the sun” where true life is found.



Discussion Questions

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?
2. The emphasis of Solomon in this book is to ask questions, rather than give answers. Questions create problems which make you think. Would you say that you are the kind of person that asks the big questions of life? Do you find yourself regularly examining your own life in light of eternity? Why or why not?

3. The first question in Ecclesiastes 1 is in verse 3, *“What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun?”* Have you ever asked yourself why *you* get out of bed to toil, strive, and work every single day? Do you find your own heart having the right motivations? Explain.
4. Solomon uses the phrase “under the sun” (v. 3). This phrase is referring to the meaninglessness of life when it is untethered from God. How would you know if an area of your life was being lived “under the sun”, rather than “over the sun”?
5. Compare verses 9-11 with Colossians 3:23-24. How do these two passages seem to relate to each other?
6. How does the gospel of Jesus Christ deliver you from the “vanity” of life “under the sun”? Do you find yourself living with “gospel hope” that is alive?

Other Resources

1. Sermon by Jason DeRouchie from the Desiring God blog: [Ecclesiastes: Finding Joy Amidst Life’s Enigmas](#)
2. Blog Post by Tremper Longman from The Gospel Coalition: [Everything is Not Meaningless](#)
3. Overview of Ecclesiastes by The Bible Project: [Read Scripture Ecclesiastes](#)