



Main point: Fear the Lord when life seems vain

- (1) God is the One you must fear
- (2) He who loves wealth will not be satisfied with wealth
- (3) God gives the gift of joy

#1:

Psalms 62:8

Trust in him at all times, O people;
pour out your heart before him;
God is a refuge for us. Selah

#2:

“When the preacher urges us to guard our steps when we enter God’s house, he indicates for us who need air that he knows what goes on when one opens those doors and steps inside. But the Preacher’s view of church leads him neither to ignore its necessity nor to mask its difficulties. He does not sentimentalize church but neither does he abandon it. ‘Under the sun, when you open the church doors,’ he says, ‘you have to watch your step.’”

Zach Eswine

Recovering Eden: The Gospel According to Ecclesiastes

#3:

“I have been tempted to quit them. At times, I have asked them for bread and instead they have put an agitated snake in my bag. Their death bites and venom teeth have paralyzed my joints and muscles. Many nights, they’ve flopped me over like a fish and filleted me down the middle. My innards have come out only to get quickly discarded into the trash.”

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#4:

1 Timothy 1:15-16

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.

#5:

1 Kings 8:62-63

(Solomon) and all Israel with him, offered sacrifice before the LORD. Solomon offered as peace offerings to the LORD 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep. So the king and all the people of Israel dedicated the house of the LORD.



#6:

Psalms 112:1,3

Praise the LORD!

Blessed is the man who fears the LORD,
who greatly delights in his commandments!
Wealth and riches are in his house,
and his righteousness endures forever.

#7:

“We need to guard our lives against the love of riches and worldly cares. All love for earthly goods, however, is not sin. Their sweetness is a drop of his love and they have his goodness imprinted on them. They kindle our love for him as love tokens from our dearest friend. Loving them is a duty, not a sin.”

Richard Baxter

#8:

“Consider all the various things that mark our lives: unstable jobs, orphans, judicial corruption, blown tires, broken legs, sex-trafficking, leaky faucets, divine sovereignty vs human responsibility, failed adoptions, monthly bills, envy, project deadlines, rainy vacations, broken marriages, chronic back pain, pride, pornography, slippery roads, severed relationships, selfishness, racism, bee stings, abortion, and the very present death of loved ones (or ourselves). This is our world. We cry, “Why us? Why her? Why this hard? Why this way? Why this long?” Yet, like Job, we hear no answer. We gain no clarity – only more vexation. Our growth in wisdom only raises more questions, as our attempts to comprehend fully what God is doing or why he is doing it always reach dead ends, at least at some level.”

Jason DeRouchie

Shepherding Wind and One Wise Shepherd: Grasping for Breath in Ecclesiastes