

Sermon Notes: “Toil” Ecclesiastes 5:18–20

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- I. What is our priority (in life “under the sun”)? — v. 18
 - A. Our lives here are short, yet we matter to God
 - B. “This is our lot” — Gift of God provided to us. How do we plan to use it?
 1. To toil like the weed strangling us in worry, fear and dissatisfaction?

- II. We have the power to enjoy them — v. 19
 - A. Compare:
 1. Wealth & Poverty
 2. Health & Sickness
 3. Fame & Obscurity
 - B. Which will draw us closer to God?
 - C. Many attaining “wealth” are not better because of it. Just the opposite. “It’s all vanity.”
 1. There is a freedom, however: 2 Timothy 2:8–10

- III. Joy is not in our circumstances, but in Christ
- A. It's not the absence of pain or struggle
 - B. It's knowing God's plan (good or bad) — conform us to the image of Christ (Romans 12:2)
 - C. God gives the power to enjoy life, how & where He's placed us
 - D. Wealth is never the problem, being consumed by it is — v. 20
 - E. Focus on joy, not distracted & consumed by stuff
 - F. Habakkuk 3:17-19