

### Introduction

1. The next question of life which follows “where did we come from?” is, “what are we doing here?”
  - a. God created me but for what purpose?
  - b. What am I supposed to be doing now that I am here?
  - c. The book of Ecclesiastes provides the answer to these questions

### The Book of Ecclesiastes

1. Definition of Ecclesiastes
  - a. “Greek *Ekklēsiastēs*, literally, preacher (translation of Hebrew *qōheleth*), from *ekklēsiastēs* member of an assembly, from *ekklēsia* (Merriam-Webster, Inc.) cf. [Ecc. 1:1](#) “The words of the Preacher”
  - b. All church members should be preachers of the Word! (cf. [Acts 8:3-4](#) “preaching” = evangelizing)
2. Written by Solomon ([Ecc. 1:1, 12-13](#))
  - a. Exceptionally wise man ([1 Kgs. 4:29-34](#); cf. [1 Kgs. 3:5-28](#))
  - b. Blessed physically ([1 Kgs. 3:13](#); cf. [1 Kgs. 10:14-29](#))
  - c. Solomon had it all and did it all so what did he conclude?

### Pleasure

1. Am I here to engage in all types of pleasure?
  - a. Is this what I am supposed to be doing?
  - b. Is my purpose in life to enjoy pleasure and nothing more?
2. What types of pleasure are under consideration?
  - a. Food and drink ([Ecc. 2:3-5](#))
  - b. Houses and gardens ([Ecc. 2:4-5](#))
  - c. Pools / Ponds ([Ecc. 2:6](#))
  - d. Servants and livestock ([Ecc. 2:7](#))
  - e. Money and entertainment ([Ecc. 2:8](#))
  - f. Anything and everything else ([Ecc. 2:9-10](#))
3. Conclusion: Vanity and striving (grasping) after the wind ([Ecc. 2:1-2, 11](#); cf. [Ecc. 1:6](#))
  - i. vanity (*hebel* H1892 heh´-bel) **meaninglessness** emptiness, futility, uselessness, i.e., what is of no use on the basis of being futile and lacking in content (DBL Hebrew)
    - a. You cannot take all the “things” of life with you ([Ecc. 2:18-19](#))
    - b. As goods increase satisfaction decreases ([Ecc. 5:10](#))
    - c. As goods increase so too they that consume them ([Ecc. 5:11](#))
    - d. As goods increase sleep decreases ([Ecc. 5:12](#))
    - e. Labor for food but the appetite is not filled ([Ecc. 6:7](#))

### Academics

1. Am I here just to gain knowledge and wisdom?
  - a. Is that what I am supposed to be doing?
  - b. Is my purpose in life to pursue all manner of academics and nothing more? (cf. [2 Tim. 3:7](#); [Acts 17:21](#))
  - c. Solomon calls this striving (grasping) after the wind ([Ecc. 1:16-18](#))
  - d. We will never have all the knowledge or wisdom that there is to know but we must have some and the type matters! ([Ecc. 7:11-12](#), [8:1-5](#), [9:18](#); cf. [Pr. 2:6](#); [Jm. 3:13-18](#))
2. Conclusion: Vanity ([Ecc. 2:15-16](#))
  - a. Grief and sorrow ([Ecc. 1:18](#))
  - b. Much study is a weariness ([Ecc. 12:12](#))

### Work

1. Am I here just to labor and work?
  - a. Is that what I am supposed to be doing?
  - b. Is my purpose in life to spend all my days working and nothing more?
    - i. We should work (cf. [2 Th. 3:10](#); [1 Tim. 5:8](#)) but we must ask ourselves why do we work?
    - ii. Our goal should not be to get rich ([Pr. 23:4-5](#); cf. [Jn. 6:27](#); [1 Tim. 6:6-19](#); [Heb. 13:5](#))
  - c. Solomon questions the profitability of labor without God in mind ([Ecc. 1:3-11](#), [4:4-8](#))
  - d. As we entered the world so must we leave ([Ecc. 5:13-16](#))
2. Conclusion: Vanity ([Ecc. 2:22-23](#))

### One Event

1. Solomon observes that one event happens to everyone: death ([Ecc. 2:14-16](#))
  - a. The physical side of man dies as the animal ([Ecc. 3:19-20](#))
    - i. Unlike animals, the spirit of man goes upward ([Ecc. 3:21](#))
    - ii. The spirit (breath) of man returns to God ([Ecc. 12:7](#); cf. [Gen. 6:17](#))
  - b. We do not know when it will happen, but it will happen ([Ecc. 9:11-12](#), [3:2](#); cf. [Heb. 9:27](#))

### What Are We Doing Here?

1. Up to this point, life has been portrayed in a most depressing way
  - a. Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth because difficult days and death is coming ([Ecc. 12:1-7](#))
  - b. Vanity of vanities...all is vanity! ([Ecc. 12:8](#))
  - c. Solomon builds to a conclusion ([Ecc. 12:9-12](#))
2. Fear God and keep His commandments ([Ecc. 12:13](#))
  - a. Why? Judgment is coming ([Ecc. 12:14](#))
3. A life spent doing anything else is wasted
4. Am I fulfilling my purpose today?