

LIFE... What's the Point?

A Peek Into Solomon's Journal

Who is Solomon -

Wisdom Literature -

Authorship and Title -

Qohelet

Theme and Purpose -

Hebel

This journal is for the heart cry of a believer who has lost their way
and is desperately searching for meaning in life.

Our conclusion will always be,
we can't find meaning in life apart from God.

Saturday, May 23, 2009

by Joel Neufeld, Pastor

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Introduction

Wisdom... I'm never going to do that again!

I. The "411" On Ecclesiastes

- Who wrote it?

- Why did he write it?

- Was he depressed when he wrote it or what?

II. Lessons learned as we peek into his journal

- Ecclesiastes is about _____ not _____!

- Ecclesiastes is about _____ not _____!

- Ecclesiastes is about _____ not _____!

Conclusion

The End at the Beginning
Ecclesiastes 12:13

*Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter:
Fear God and keep his commandments for
this is the whole duty of man.*

The Emmaus Road

...and he opened to us the Scriptures (Luke 24:32)

This past Sunday we launched into what I hope will be a ground breaking study in our church about life in Christ. What a great tool God has given us in the book of Ecclesiastes to help us live well and fill our days with deep meaning and joy. The ultimate truth I trust we will all see is that life lived apart from God doesn't work. Lets take a brief tour and set our minds and hearts toward all that God is going to teach us!

Monday - Read Ecclesiastes 1:1-2. What do you think it means for Solomon to declare that all of life is vanity? The Hebrew word for vanity means "vapor" speaking of the preciousness and brevity of life. Solomon's point is to help us see how important every moment is. Your assignment today is to find God in an everyday way (at work, at home, at school) and live in the moment. Ask God to help you slow down enough to see Him in the smallest things!

Tuesday - Read Ecclesiastes 12:13. What is Solomon saying here? What impact can these words have on your day today? It gets my attention knowing that Solomon, who possessed unequaled wisdom, wealth, power, experience and pleasure, would come to the conclusion that God is the only source of satisfaction and meaning. May you come to know God in such a way that He fills every desire of your heart and leads you to a profoundly satisfying life!

Wednesday - Read James 1:5-8. Solomon's main goal in Ecclesiastes is to give us a blueprint for wisdom. James very practically captures this idea here as he challenges us to ask God for wisdom. What does the text say will happen when we ask? What do verses 6-8 say that we must not do when we ask? When was the last time you spent some time aside and prayed for God's wisdom to fill you? Take that time now, pray very specifically and wait for Him to answer. BTW, don't doubt that He will!

Thursday - Read Proverbs 1:7. What is this verse saying about source of wisdom? What relationship does this verse have with Ecclesiastes 12:13? What do you think it means to fear God? "Wisdom" is a Hebrew word that means "to live with skill". Solomon in both of these passages is calling us to live well and heed the counsel of God as we do it. May you live in reverence and awe of the power and wisdom of God and may it find its way into every nook and cranny of your life!

Friday - Read I Kings 3:1-15. What do you notice about the attitude of Solomon's heart in this passage? How does Solomon approach God? We see Solomon seeking God in humility knowing how deep his need is. This seems to me to be a good summary of the fear of God we studied yesterday. May God grant you wisdom that allows you to discern what God is saying and where He is leading!