

Ecclesiastes: Finding Meaning in Life

Sunday, March 14, 2021

Ecclesiastes 1:12-2:26

Introduction

A God-centered Worldview Turns the HEVEL to Joy

I. A Life of HEVEL (1:12-2:23)

The Preacher said, I chased it all: all the wisdom, every imaginable pleasure, and endless work and in the end all of it left me with an empty despair under the sun.

v.12-18 – The Hevel of Wisdom

v.2:1-11 – The Hevel of Pleasure

v.12-17 – The Hevel of Living Wise

v.18-23 – The Hevel of Work/Toil

II. A Life of JOY (2:24-26)

“The gift of God does not make this meaningless go away; the gift of God makes this vanity enjoyable.” Doug Wilson

He Redeemed Wisdom:

Proverbs 1:1-7 - The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel: To know wisdom and instruction, to understand words of insight, to receive instruction in wise dealing, in righteousness, justice, and equity; to give prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the youth—Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance, to understand a proverb and a saying, the words of the wise and their riddles. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

James 1:5 – “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.”

He Redeemed Pleasure:

Psalm 16:11 - You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

He Redeemed Living Wisely:

Matthew 11:28-30 – *“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”*

He Redeemed Work:

Colossians 3:23,24 – *“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.”*

1 Corinthians 10:31 – *“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”*

He Redeemed Giving:

Matthew 6:19,20 - *“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.”*

He Redeemed Death:

John 11:25,26 – *“Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”*

III. Conclusion

As we close today, let us remember that God has given us *“an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you...”* 1 Peter 1:4