



# 246 ECCL ESIA STES

# Lesson 1 Everything is worthless

## I. Introduction

- A. Solomon writes this book being the **WEALTHIEST** and **WISEST** man alive (I Kings 3:3-15)  
\*see I Kings 10:23-24
- B. Although Solomon had everything this world had to offer, he felt **EMPTY** (Ecc. 2:11)
- C. Solomon comes to the powerful conclusion in Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

## II. Solomon looks at his life apart from God

- A. Without God, our lives are **POINTLESS REPITITION**, just like the weather (Ecc. 1:1-11)

Question- Read verse 2. What does Solomon say about life?

\*Read verse 3. He says that we work all day, and in the end it is for nothing.

Question- Read verses 9-10. What does he mean by there is nothing new?

Talk About It- How does it make you feel when Solomon says that no one will remember you once you are gone in verse 11? How can someone who lives for God be any different?

\*When a Cowboys player was asked how it felt to win the ultimate game (1972 Super Bowl), he said, "It it's the ultimate game, why is it being played again next year?"

\*Illustration- Look at a graveyard. How many of those people where considered "great" while they were alive? Now, what are they?

- B. Trying to find purpose outside of God leads to **FRUSTRATION** (Ecc. 1:12-18)

\*Look at his sarcastic comment in verse 13

Question: Read verse 18. What do you think this verse is saying?

Illustration- It is one thing to get an "F" on something you didn't try for. It is totally different to fail at something you gave your everything at. That is life apart from God.

Talk About It- What are some examples of how people are filled with "grief" and "sorrow" trying to live their lives apart from God? Can this be true for a Christian not living for God?

## II. Areas that won't give you happiness

\*for each one, discuss how this is applicable today (since there is "nothing new")

### A. Pleasure & Possessions (Ecc. 2:1-11)

Question: What are some specific ways that Solomon tried to find happiness?

### B. Wisdom (Ecc. 2:12-17) \*Key verse- 16

Question: Read verse 16. What does he say about the man trusting in his wisdom?

### C. Hard Work (Ecc. 2:18-23) \*Read 22-23

## III. Solomon's Conclusion (Ecc. 2:25-26)

Question: Read verse 25. What is Solomon's conclusion?

Question: Read verse 26. How is the life of a Christian seeking after God different from the lost or the Christian not living for God?

### Discussion Questions:

1. In what areas of life are you most tempted to "chase after the wind"?
2. Have you done the most important thing by surrendering your life to the One who can give you true meaning and purpose?

*"When all has been heard, the conclusion of the matter is: fear God and keep His commands, because this is for all humanity. For God will bring every act to judgment, including every hidden thing, whether good or evil."*  
Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

### Take it Home

Read Ecclesiastes 1-2. Ask God to show you any areas that you are focusing your attention on more than Him.