



July 31, 2022

Ecclesiastes 1:1,2,12-14; 2:18-26

¹The words of the Teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem:

²“Meaningless! Meaningless!”

says the Teacher.

“Utterly meaningless!

Everything is meaningless.”

¹²I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³I applied my mind to study and to explore by wisdom all that is done under the heavens. What a heavy burden God has laid on mankind! ¹⁴I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

¹⁸I hated all the things I had toiled for under the sun, because I must leave them to the one who comes after me. ¹⁹And who knows whether that person will be wise or foolish? Yet they will have control over all the fruit of my toil into which I have poured my effort and skill under the sun. This too is meaningless. ²⁰So my heart began to despair over all my toilsome labor under the sun.

²¹For a person may labor with wisdom, knowledge and skill, and then they must leave all they own to another who has not toiled for it. This too is meaningless and a great misfortune. ²²What do people get for all the toil and anxious striving with which they labor under the sun? ²³All their days their work is grief and pain; even at night their minds do not rest. This too is meaningless.

²⁴A person can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in their own toil. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, ²⁵for without him, who can eat or find enjoyment? ²⁶To the person who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness, but to the sinner he gives the task of gathering and storing up wealth to hand it over to the one who pleases God. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

1. As you hear these verses read, what emotions and feelings do you sense in the author's words?
2. When King Solomon, the traditionally understood author of Ecclesiastes, says, "Everything is meaningless," from what perspective is he speaking?
3. Compare verses 14,18 and verses 23,24. Agree or Disagree: According to Solomon, work is bad and meaningless.
4. Scan through the verses and underline the words "under the (sun)" What do you think Solomon is trying to communicate by using that phrase "under the sun" over and over again?
5. Agree or Disagree: Solomon says, "Forget retirement planning. You shouldn't store up money or plan to leave an inheritance. It's meaningless."
6. Solomon says, "To the sinner, God gives the task of gathering and storing up wealth to hand it over to the one who pleases God. How come that doesn't seem like it happens very often? Why does it seem like the wicked get richer and richer?"
7. What is the secret to contentment?