

## READ

Ecclesiastes 1:12 to 2:26 (and/or listen to audible chapter 682)

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## SUMMARY

Solomon identifies 3 vanities of life. Pursuit of Wisdom, Self-indulgence (personal pleasure), and Labor

Solomon realizes that the search for wisdom has led to frustration because both the wise and the fool experience the same fate.

There is a song titled: "Cemetery" by a band called "Coin"

*"Never made time for the family*

***But he is the richest man in the cemetery***

*Only made time for the company*

*But he is the richest man in the cemetery"*

In the song, even though the man had everything it could not keep him from ending up next to someone who had nothing. Our fates are sealed, we will all die some day.

### **BUT: HOW WE CHOSE TO LIVE WHILE WE'RE HERE MATTERS TO GOD.**

The song speaks of being wealthy in the cemetery versus being poor. Abundance versus poverty.

We've been both, wealthy is better.

God wants us all to have abundance and to be happy.

Ask yourself why are we drawn to happiness, drawn to beauty, drawn to light?

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5 Things that Solomon found nothing but meaninglessness in

### **THE LIMITATIONS OF WISDOM Ecc. 1:16-18**

Solomon is saying that much wisdom can lead to much sorrow.

"A little knowledge can be a bad thing."

Very common to the Spiderman phrase- with great power comes great responsibility

Colossians 2:2-3 As Christians we have access to God's mystery which is Christ and through Christ, we have the wisdom of HOPE. So ***only through God will wisdom and understanding***

***bring hope knowing that after we die we will spend eternity with Him.***

Phenomenon. a fact or situation that is observed to exist or happen, especially one whose cause or explanation is in question.

### **THE EMPTINESS OF PLEASURES Ecc. 2:1-3**

Isaiah 22:13- The last sentence is “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die”  
Non-Christians with no hope tend to live by this philosophy not believing that what they do in this life can affect where they will spend eternity

This style of living is like being on a roller coaster there is 2 minutes of pure excitement but then it ends. According to Solomon at the beginning of the book our lives last as long as a breath of air (VAPOR) so without meaning pleasure was not fulfilling.

### **THE EMPTINESS OF POSSESSIONS Ecc. 2:4-11**

Solomon was one of the richest kings in history (1 Kings 10:14-29) he received 25 tons of Gold yearly. (1,337,600,000 per year by today's gold conv standard)  
Houses, vineyards, gardens, parks, reservoirs, trees, servants, slaves, livestock, silver gold, treasures of kings, provinces, singers, prostitutes

With all these things he still claims that there was nothing to be gained under the sun or futile

These verses show the natural inclination of the human heart when go unchecked.

John 13:3-14 and Philipians 2:1-11 are verses that talk about how Christ humbled himself and gave up everything to become human and then be crucified on the cross for us.

### **THE RELATIVE VALUE OF WISDOM Ecc. 2:12-17**

This section can easily relate to the song lyrics concerning the rich man's fate. Having more wisdom than the fool does not save you from the same fate as the fool.

Since ALL of our lives will end one day can having more wisdom give you a longer life than one who is foolish?

GOD DETERMINES THE LENGTH OF YOUR LIFE NOT YOUR COLLEGE DEGREE.  
Understanding THAT is wisdom.

However verse 13 says that there is an advantage to being wise over being a fool, but ***without God life is still meaningless.*** We can only receive eternal life from our faith in Christ. The fool may know this truth but does not believe it.

## **THE EMPTINESS OF WORK Ecc. 2:18-26**

Who will inherit the legacy of your good works?

vs. 18 one of the biggest concerns when leaving a legacy is will the person that comes after continue it or discontinue it. Its sometimes hard to get someone to share the same passion about something that they did not build or create.

vs. 22 asks the question- what does a person get for all their hard work?

Who stays awake at night worrying about their work?

Finally, we have some hope and joy that can be found in vs. 24. God wants us to enjoy things in life Examples in the verse are- eat, drink, possessions, relationships BUT we don't need to look for meaning within these things

vs. 25 notes that you cannot truly enjoy these things without God

vs. 26 Solomon closes out by saying that God rewards those pleasing in his sight

## **THE REAL QUESTION IS WHO WILL INHERIT THE LEGACY OF YOUR GOD WORKS?**

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## **QUESTIONS**

In vs 15 the Solomon says, "what is crooked cannot be made straight," what does this mean about people or our efforts to change people?

*You cannot straighten out someone who is crooked and what is wrong is wrong. There is no spin on sin and how God sees it.*

What does this reveal to me about God?

What does God want me to see?

What does God want me to hear?

What is God asking of me?

What did you not like about these verses?

Is life worth living? Are accomplishments in life worth the effort? Why should I bother making my bed? Watch:

"Make Your Bed" by US Navy Admiral William H McRaven