

Introduction to Ecclesiastes

Eccl. 1:1-11

- We've just read "all is vanity" and we've said, "Thanks be to God." Welcome to Ecclesiastes.
- How many of you heard the text read and were like, "Wow, that was uplifting!" "This doesn't sound like K-Love, positive, uplifting, encouraging..."
- Ecclesiastes seems like it was written on a Monday morning, doesn't it?
- We need to be prepared for the realism of this book because it hits us hard, and I submit that this is a gift to us, and will lead us to the gospel and our glorious hope in Christ. **[Pray]**

While Kimberly and I like a lot of the same kinds of films, we do not share the same interest when it comes to movies that do not have happy endings. I often say, "Not every movie should end happily because that is not *real life*." And she will say, "Yes, but I don't want real life; I want entertainment!"

- And I don't mind **sad** endings, or endings that are **unresolved** because that's life.
- Many of life's questions will go unanswered on this side of heaven.

Ecclesiastes Is an Honest Book

- It **deals with the harsh realities of life "under the sun"**.
- It deals with the harsh realities of living **in a fallen world that often leaves us frustrated.** **[Show Sermon Graphic]**.
- Keep "**Fall**" and "**Frustration**." Keep **Genesis 3** in mind.

Genesis 3:17–19 (ESV): 17 And to Adam he said,

"Because you have listened to the voice of your wife

and have eaten of the tree

of which I commanded you,

'You shall not eat of it,'

cursed is the ground because of you;

in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

18 thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; **[frustration]**

and you shall eat the plants of the field.

19 By the sweat of your face **[Toil]**

you shall eat bread,

till you return to the ground,

for out of it you were taken;

for you are dust, **[Death]**

and to dust you shall return."

- Ecclesiastes shows us that **bumper-sticker theology doesn't always tell the whole story.**
- It **wakes us up and forces us to look at the world the way it really is.**
- Life **under the sun** isn't always tidy.

I have read this book a number of times, and have often been perplexed by it.

- **But now as a middle-aged man, who has been walking with the Lord for some time now, I do believe is one of my favorite books.**

- I find the honesty refreshing because it tells me what I should expect from life, and it drives me to the hope of the gospel, and the glorious life to come in the new creation.
- I find that the honesty can produce in you a great sense of contentment.
- It helps one to **not be surprised by disappointment, unmet expectations**, and **what some would consider the boring routine of life.**
- It centers me on the things that really matter, and makes me grateful for the little things that I take for granted.

It's a Book for Everyone

We get to listen to an older man reflect on life, and there's much to consider here.

This book will be good for a lot of you Millennials, and a lot of you teenagers.

- It may expose your unhealthy and unrealistic ambitions, and will hopefully lead you into the way of wisdom.
- It dismantles youthful idealism and can bring about a settled contentment in the gifts of God, and compel you to walk in the fear of God.

This book will be good for a lot of **young professionals and singles and families** (which the Triangle is full of!) as we consider what to do with our lives, and how we should view careers.

This book is for people **who have doubts about God, but can't stop thinking about Him, particularly for those who are haunted by death — a dominant theme in the book.**

- Christopher Hitchens, said, "**The fear of death distresses me. I would not trust anyone who has not felt something like it.**" If that's you, then lean into this wisdom book.

It's a Difficult Book

Ecclesiastes can be a **tough read**, so be prepared for that also.

The only thing the commentators agree on seems to be its **difficulty!**

- "Ecclesiastes is not an easy book."
- "It's best to be frank at the outset, Ecclesiastes is a difficult book." (Ian Provan)
- Martin Luther: "This book is one of the more difficult books in all of Scriptures, one which no one has ever mastered."
- "Two thousand years of interpretation ... have utterly failed to solve the enigma." (Whybray)
- Craig Bartholomew: "Ecclesiastes is a lot like an octopus: just when you think you have all the tentacles under control – that is, you have understood the book – there is one waving about in the air!"
- Gregory of Nyssa: It is like "wrestling in the gymnasium."

It's an Unusual Book

- It says nothing of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, the Exodus, the Promised Land, nor of prophetic hope of the future.
- The author expresses a **shared humanity** with everyone, and speaks less like a Jewish leader, and more like a fellow human.
 - His message is a bit like Paul when he spoke to the Athenians and to those in Lystra.
- **Those with little knowledge of the Bible can actually identify with Ecclesiastes' words — that's why the Beatles and others could write songs reflecting on it.**

- But it is God’s Word – written by “**one Shepherd**” (12:11).
- “All Scripture is profitable” and is for our maturity, including Ecclesiastes.

So here we go. I would like for you to consider these three topics: (1) **Why Study Ecclesiastes**, (2) **How to Study Ecclesiastes**, and (3) **Applying Gospel Hope to the Opening of Ecclesiastes**.

I. Why Study Ecclesiastes

1. It helps us to be honest about the troubles of life.

- Jesus never denied that we would have trouble, in fact he promised it.
- Solomon does not **sugar-coat things either**.
- One scholar said that “Ecclesiastes is ‘a kind of back door’ that allows believers to have the sad and skeptical thoughts that they would never allow to enter the front door of their faith.”
- **He is not an atheist, but he’s honest about the struggle.**

2. It helps us to ask the biggest questions that people have today and to apply the gospel to these questions.

What is the meaning of life?

- Why is there so much injustice and suffering?
- Does God even care?
- Is life worth living?
- Where is joy found?

The author is **not satisfied with pat answers**.

- We need the whole Bible to answer most of these questions, and thankfully that’s what we have!
- We know that there will be redeemed humanity and a renewed earth, a return to Eden, reflecting in Zack Eswine’s title, “Recovering Eden: the Gospel According to Ecclesiastes”
- **But right now we are not in Eden, so we should not be surprised by fallenness, futility and frustration.**

3. It helps us worship the one true God.

- With all the doubts/disappointments of Ecclesiastes, **this book teaches us much about God**.
- God is presented as **Creator, Sovereign, Good, Wise and Just, who is to be known, revered, loved, trusted and obeyed**.
- This knowledge should lead us to worship.

4. It helps us live for God’s glory and not for ourselves.

- The author (Solomon) had everything: money, pleasure, wisdom, and a lot of emptiness.
- **Having everything almost destroyed him.**
- **It is in living for God’s glory, in fear of God, enjoying the gifts of God that we find life that is truly life.**
- It is by bringing up the inevitability of death, that Solomon helps us actually live lives that matter.
- A proper perspective on death will lead us to a proper perspective on life.

II. How to Study Ecclesiastes

1. As God's Wisdom Literature

- It's not an epistle; not a narrative; not a law book; it's not apocalyptic literature. It's wisdom.
- It is similar to the other wisdom books : Proverbs, Job and Song of Songs. But its different than these books in various ways.
 - **Proverbs emphasizes ethics;**
 - **Job emphasizes suffering;**
 - **Songs emphasizes Love.**
 - **Ecclesiastes is more philosophical, more about meaning and joy.**
- **Eswine: "Proverbs is like math; Eccl is like music, all mood with melody and tone."**
- Wisdom lit includes: **poetry, parallelisms, parables, metaphors, similes, hyperbole, wordplays, practical admonitions, rhetorical questions, etc.**
- We find the terms **wisdom and folly, and the theme of fearing the Lord.**
- Because it is wisdom literature, it can be **tricky**.
- How do you make sense of statements like: **"Be not overly righteous, and do not make yourself too wise. Why should you destroy yourself? Be not overly wicked..." (7:16-17)**

2. As a Unified Message: **Fear God in everything; enjoy God in the little things.**

- How do we live in a fallen world, a world of **"vanity"** (**hebel** – a word found **38 times** in the book, and bookends the book, see **12:8**)?
- Here's my short-hand summary: **"Fear God in everything; enjoy God in the little things."**
 - This is the path to a meaningful and joyful life, **that we enter into through Jesus Christ.**
 - **In each of the nine sermons, one or both of these themes will appear.**
- Fearing God is how the books concludes **12:13-14**
¹³ The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. ¹⁴ For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

How do we fear God? We trust him and obey Him, in light of his revealed word.

- Many of life's questions will not be answered, but we are not in the dark.
- We have God's Word. And a meaningful life is a life built on God's revealed Word.
- "If you love me, you will obey my commandments" (Jn 14:15)
- Fearing God has to do with revering God; worshiping God; honoring God; submitting to God.

How do we enjoy God? By receiving his gracious gifts with grateful hearts – what we often consider to be "little things."

- There are several **"enjoyment passages"** in Ecclesiastes that highlight God's grace:
- **Luther said 2:24-25 is the key to the book.**

²⁴ There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God, ²⁵ for apart from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment? (**See also 3:12-13; 3:22**)

This an important pivot point. The author doesn't mention GOD (other than 1:13 but there not as the solution) until 2:24-26.

- Up to this point, **including our passage today**, it's not the full picture.
- It's a perspective devoid of God. It's devoid of the whole story.
- You find this repeated: enjoy food, drink, and your toil... in 9:3, this is added, "Enjoy life with the wife whom you love."
- **"The best good in the madness under the sun is found when we recover some small resemblance to what we were made for in Eden." (Eswine)**
 - God's gifts to humanity have not stopped, even though the world still groans.
 - And we look forward to the day in which the groaning is gone and we can enjoy paradise restored.

**Fearing God has to do with living in light of God's holiness;
enjoying God has to do with receiving God's grace with gratitude.**

As followers of Christ Jesus, we worship God with reverence and awe, and we recognize that God is abundantly gracious to us.

- **Fear God in everything (base everything you do on his revealed word) and enjoy God in the little things, through Jesus Christ who will make all things new.**

3. In Light of the Crucified, Risen, and Returning Christ

- **Ecclesiastes may end in chapter 12, but it is not the end of the Bible.**
- We must interpret Scripture in light of the whole story of Scripture.
- In **Lk 24**, Jesus taught is to read the **Law/Prophets/Writings** in light of his person and work.
- Those **Writings** include *Ecclesiastes*.
- **So we can't read the book as if Jesus' feet never touched the earth; as if the One Greater than Solomon never arrived.**

Reading it through the lens of Christ, with gospel glasses means several things:

- **Jesus called himself the One Greater than Solomon, who had the words of eternal life.**
- **Jesus us the true embodiment of wisdom: see him fear God and keep his father's commandments, and follow him.**
- **Jesus crushed the greatest fear of the author of Ecclesiastes: death – through his death and resurrection.**
- **Jesus will one day make all things new – and the curse will be reversed!**

How do you live under the sun? You live it in the Son.

- **You get over the sun, and see the ruling and reigning and returning Son.**
- Reading with the lenses of Christ **does not mean that you won't have disappointment and struggle and feel the futility of this fallen world; but life makes sense in view of the reality of Christ; life is worth living because of him; life has joy in him; your labor is not in vain because of him.**
- Ecclesiastes should help us love Christ.

Romans 8 and Ecclesiastes

- One verse to keep in mind as we read Eccl. is Romans 8:20 and it's surrounding context.

- See the connection with the word “vanity” like in 1:2 and Romans 8:20.

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to **futility**, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

- Ecclesiastes may not be directly quoted in the NT, but Paul may be alluding to it here.
- **Paul uses the same word that the Septuagint (Greek version of the Old Testament) uses in Ecclesiastes 1:2 here in Romans 8:20 (*mataiotēs*), as he talks about the curse.**
- Because of the disobedience, we know find life frustrating and broken.
- But there is hope!
- **Creation is screaming for rescue, and it is that rescue that Paul proclaims here in verses 20-21.**
- The phrase, “because of him who subjected it” (8:20) **refers to God, who allowed creation to be drawn into the decaying effects of Adam and Even’s sin** (see Gen 3:17-19).
- **But God’s divine design was a design for good, as it was subjected “in hope that creation will be set free....” (8:20-21).**
- So the creation, like the redeemed, possesses an eschatological hope.
- **Slavery and decay will be replaced by freedom and renewal, as the creation shares in the glorification of God’s children.**
- Sin brought death and destruction, but the redeemed wait for the day in which they will dwell in a new heaven and new earth, made possible through our Lord Jesus Christ.

III. Applying Gospel Hope to the Opening of Ecclesiastes (1:1-11)

I say, Applying Gospel Hope because the book begins so **hopelessly**.

- The author describes the same ole same old nature of our life and our labor.
- He begins with some **shock tactics, describing life devoid of God and without considering the whole story of redemption.**

First, note the introductory verse.

1:1 – The book is introduced with “The words of the Preacher, the Son of David, king in Jerusalem”

- This most likely refers to Solomon himself, though it’s possible that this is one writing in the tradition of Solomon or writing about the of Solomon.
- The word “**Preacher**” is the Hebrew word **Qoheleth**, sometimes translated as “teacher.”
- The Hebrew word denotes the leader of an assembly, or the gathering of an assembly.
- You can hear the Greek word “**ecclesia**” in it.

- So he's like the leader of a congregation, a pastor of sorts who has gathered up wisdom and seeks to impart it to the listeners.

1:2 – If you want people to stop pretending, and take an honest look at life in a fallen world, then this is a way to get their attention: Everything is vanity!

- Everything is “**hebel** of hebels.”
- It is often translated as **meaningless**, but that's not the best translation of the word itself, plus Solomon goes on to say that there is meaning in life.
- It literally means “**breath**” or “**vapor**.”
- The vapor connotation carries the idea of **fleeting** (Jas 4:14; cf., Ps 39:5-6; 11; 144:3-4).
- “Everything is a breath.”
- **Metaphorically the word hebel means life is short, elusive, enigmatic, and in many ways futile.**
- **Life comes and goes quickly; you can't seem to get your hands on it; and it can be frustrating and futile.**
- This is not the whole picture, as we will see. The author will bring up God's grace, God's providence and God's judgement; all of which give meaning to life.
- His pessimism will lead us to faith if we journey with him.

To this we ask, “**really?**” Is life really vanity?

1:3 – So Solomon brings up his first argument for this notion: **toil** (read)

- **He will bring up many problems with our toil (as well as many blessings), but here he addresses some overarching frustrations.**
- His implied answer is “**nothing**.” You gain/profit nothing.

In verses 4-11, he paints a stark picture of the vanities of toil, and basically says three things: (1) **nothing really changes**, (2) **nothing is really new**, and (3) **nothing is really remembered**. This is life “**under the sun**” (v. 3).

This is what life here can feel like, and this is why we need new life in Christ!

Consider: (1) **Our Toil: and Its Vanities** and (2) **Our Toil in Light of Christ**.

A. Our Toil and Its Vanities (1:1-11)

Nothing Really Changes (1:4-8)

Solomon describes the repetitive nature of life by illustrating it with the basic elements of nature: sun, wind, water.

- These forces seem to be **busy, but their motion is filled with monotony**.
- The work of the sun, wind and water is like our work on earth.
- It doesn't seem to make a significant difference.

4: We think we are making a difference, but the earth remains while we die – **a generation goes and comes**.

- It's the earth that remains.

- We labor and toil and die, and the earth **just stays there, spinning without me.**
- Notice it's **not** that one generation "comes and goes" an idea that conveys **progression**; But "goes and comes" – that emphasis is on **replacement**.
- We just **get replaced**. This generation is gone, and another one replaces it.

Usually, there are like four or five generations alive at one time:

- (1) **generation z (1995-present)**
 - (2) **Millennials (born 1980-1994)**
 - (3) **Gen X (born 1965-1979)**
 - (4) **Boomers (born 1944-64).**
 - (5) **The Silent Generation (1928-45)**
- I'm in the third generation of the fourth. Boomers **are dying... most Silents have... I'm next to begin dying!**
 - **Gen Z is like "oh look at this new Ipad, this new fitbit," and boomers are like, "meh, there's nothing new; we're going to die" and Gen x is saying, "This Ecclesiastes is some good stuff."**
 - So welcome to my mid-life crisis sermon series!
 - **Let me illustrate what Solomon is reflecting on...**
 - **Who can name your grandparents?**
 - **Great Grandparents?**
 - **Great, Great Grand Parents?**
 - **Great, Great, Great, Grand Parents?**

Most can go two or three generations and that's it; they can't name their own family.

It doesn't take long for a person to be forgotten.

Transition: Three examples (1) the repetitious cycles of the sun is kind of like a runner on a circular track; (2) the wind blowing round its circuits seems to have no purpose; (3) the waters flowing into the seas without ever finding their task accomplished.

5: Consider the **sun**. It rises and sets – over and over again.

- It never gets anywhere and never does anything new.
- Running on a treadmill: "I ran three miles" — no you didn't. You didn't go anywhere.
- And it's the **same sun** that Abraham saw... It's the same rising and setting.
- **Again, this is a perspective that is true in a sense, but it also doesn't consider the sun in view of God like Psalm 19!**
- **Take away God, and creation doesn't stimulate worship.**
- **Your view of God impacts how you see everything!**

6: Consider the **wind**. **Round and round it goes.**

- One day it blows south, and then the next days the same wind blows north... **a lot of commotion for not a lot of change.**
- There's a predictability about jet streams, what seasons hurricanes come, etc.
- It seems to be moving in an endless circle.

7: Consider **streams and rivers**.

- The Mississippi can flow into the Gulf of Mexico and then into the Atlantic Ocean but that ocean never overflows or gets any deeper.
- The mighty Mississippi is working hard, but what does it accomplish?
- It rains, it flows, it evaporates. Nothing really changes.
- You do the dishes, they're dirty again; you clean the floor, someone walks on it...
- 5pm, the floor is covered in Legos... tidy the house, next day same thing!

8: There's a **weary monotony** to it all. Creation is exhausted; humanity is exhausted.

The man who had everything is weary of it all.

- He gets tired just thinking about it; seeing it and hearing it all.
- The sun, wind and water are similar to the activities of speaking, seeing and hearing — it doesn't seem to get anywhere nor be satisfied.
- **Just as the water pours into the ocean, so things get poured into us, but we never reach a point of satisfaction.**
- Today we have an endless supply of things to see or here; but our appetites are not satisfied.
- Our toil seems **insignificant, and our lives are dissatisfied.**

He's wrestling with what our lives feel like. It feels like Groundhog Day.

- **It's Monday: We wake up, we do some stuff, we go to sleep. We wake up, we do some stuff, we go to sleep.**
- **What happens on Monday? We hit the alarm, we brush our teeth, grab a bite, maybe a coffee, we go to work, we stop for lunch; we go back to work; we punch out; we may stop at the gym on the way home, or play with the kids; we eat dinner; we relax, maybe read or watch something; we go to sleep.**
- **And we will do it all on Tuesday again.**
- **Weekends are a bit different but not in any significant way; the same for vacations.**

Repetition. Nothing really changes. **That's his first lament.**

- **And it's intended to force ourselves to think about why we do what we do.**
- And because we don't stop and think deeply then we are bumped around like a ping-pong ball from **one identity crisis to another.**

Nothing Is Really New (1:9-10)

- We may read this and say "not true." "This hard pessimism should be rejected."
- **After all, this is the information age! This is the technological age!**
 - **In his book *Hamlet's Blackberry*, William Powers talks about the problems of technology as well as the history of humans wanting to be connected. He describes how there have always been "screen equivalents." There have been changing forms of communication through the ages.**
- **Solomon is speaking in generalities and his point is the fundamental aspects of life are not new today.**
- Sometimes this is quite obvious, like when older people look at **fashion trends today!**
- **It's not new! It's not Vintage. It's the 80's.**
- Solomon says the basic aspects of life are not new.
 - **A government is still a government.**

- People still labor with their hands.
- We still make things out of the same basic raw materials.
- As to business, an owner is still an owner, a manufacturer is a manufacturer, and a salesman is still a salesman.
- We still wear clothes; we still sleep, eat.
- Astros steal signs with video, but it's still stealing signs; that's been going on for ages.
- Even landing on the moon is just a form of adventure and exploration.
 - Solomon says a new form of exploration will not satisfy. It's not new in a newly satisfying way.
- When viewed against the backdrop of history, **newness fades**.

Nothing Is Really Remembered (1:11)

- I went back to my Alma Mater a few years ago... can you believe that no one knew who I was on the baseball team!?
- Even closer to home now... A friend of mine told of some friends who went to London. They wanted to see Spurgeon's church. They started asking people on the street where to find it and no one knew who Spurgeon was!
- If that's true of Spurgeon, I'm **positive that will be true of me!**
- "Preach the Gospel, die and be forgotten" (Zinzendorf). That will happen.
- "Today's celebrities are tomorrow's obituaries."

So what do we do? There are three bad options:

1. **Escapism** – You can try to avoid the frustrations of life. Just occupy your mind with other things.
 - This is how the majority of people in our secular world cope with the thorns and thistles.
 - Just fill your mind with things that will keep you from deeply thinking on these things.
 - **Escapism is big business.** Sports, entertainment, leisure, the stuff of Eccl 2.
2. **Nihilism** – Believe that life has no objective meaning or value.
3. **Hedonism** – Just live it up, there's no point to life.

B. Our Toil in Light of Christ

The Bible directs of to a better approach to the **frustrations of toil: To Christ.**

- We have a King who reigns over the sun.
- We know more than Solomon because we have a full revelation of God in Scripture.
- What do we learn about toil in light of Christ.
 - Christ's work changed everything.
 - Christ's work was/is/will be new.
 - Christ's work will be remembered.
 - In Christ, our work is not in vain, our work is joyous, and our work will be rewarded.

Christ's Work Changed Everything

- We have the carpentering work of Jesus. It mattered.
- More **importantly, Jesus' work of redemption mattered.**

- **Jesus' redemptive work did change the world.**
- "My food is to do with the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work" (Jn 4:34).
- On the cross, He cried, "It is finished." His work changed the world.

1 Peter 1:18: "you were ransomed from the **futile** (same word) ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ." **Christ redeems us from vanity, from hebel; his work changes everything!**

Christ's Work Was/Is/Will Be New

His work was new! He did what no one could ever do – he solved our greatest problem: our alimentionation from God.

- He reconciled us to the Father.
- He made a new covenant through his blood.

His work is new! For if anyone is in Christ, he or she is a new creation (2 Cor 5:17)!

- The gospel is not "be a nice person" but rather, come to Jesus and become "a new person."
- Ezekiel said that in the new covenant God would give us a "new heart" (Ez 36).
- Even in the OT, God says, "God's mercies are new every morning" – through a relationship with God there is newness to this frustrating life.

His work will be new! Jesus said he will make all things new! (Rev 21:5).

- **We must read Ecclesiastes 1 in light of Romans 8! Groaning will give way to glory!**
- Life' frustrations will not last forever! Pain and death will not be forever.
- And even the sun will no longer be needed for we will dwell under the light of the Son of God.

So whatever you do in this life, know Christ!

- "What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his soul?" (Mk 8)
- **Many want to try to gain the whole world, and Solomon says it won't satisfy; He says, "it's all hebel." Jesus adds, "And you will lose your soul!"**

**There two reasons to not toil without reference to God –
the stuff won't satisfy, your work won't last, and you will lose your soul.**

- So be wise and know Christ.
- Fear God in everything; and enjoy God in the little things – through Jesus Christ who makes all things new.

Christ's Work Will Be Remembered

- We remember it every week through the **Lord's Supper**.
- We will remember it for ages to come as we worship the Lamb who was slain for sinners.

In Christ, Our Work Is Not in Vain; It is Joyous; and It Will Be Rewarded

- Even a cup of cold water given in Jesus name matters (Matt 10:42; cf., Matt 25)
- **1 Corinthians 15:58** – Our labor is **not in vain** because Jesus is alive!
- We can derive great joy in serving our Lord Christ.

- He will reward us according to our labor (Rom 2:6).

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11 tells us about the frustration of toil in a fallen world.

The Gospel tells us how Jesus came to redeem it all.

How he transforms us and it, and will one day transform the world.

Ecclesiastes forces us to think: What will you do with the frustrations of this fallen world?

- **Escapism?**
- **Nihilism?**
- **Hedonism?**
- **Christ-Centered Faith? “Almost every verse in Ecclesiastes shows us how much we need the Savior” (Ryken)**

Jesus would do more than Solomon could ever do.

- **He would stand underneath the sun for us.**
- **He would defeat death through his death and resurrection.**
- **He will return and restore Paradise for us.**
- **And we shall revere God and enjoy Him forever.**
- **Jesus speaks back to the concerns of Ecclesiastes and says, “Take heart, I have overcome the world.”**
- **Happiness, meaning, and hope our found in our God, through our Lord Jesus Christ – the only one who can satisfy our souls.**