

## What are you doing?

### Definitions:

Vanity – emptiness, fruitless desire or endeavor, lack of purpose and meaning, without worth, no value or importance

Vexation – irritating, disturbing to the mind, afflictive, distressing, grievous

Folly – weakness of intellect, lack of understanding (a fool is filled with folly)

Madness – extreme folly, wildness of passion, fury, rage, acting opposite to reason

Mirth – social merriment, high excitement of pleasurable feelings in company, pleasurable things

The wisest man that ever lived said all is vanity and vexation of spirit (Ecclesiastes 2:11). Solomon had a pessimistic view of human nature and history. By the way that is the biblical view. It is not positive or optimistic, that is the view of the false prophets in the Bible. We do not evolve and make progress until it gets so good down here. We don't bring in the kingdom. We actually go backwards not forwards. That is the biblical view. Before you ever get to the positive you have to face and deal with the negative. That's the way it is. Now as saved people our future is looking bright! But from the fall of man to the Great White Throne of Judgment all is vanity and vexation of spirit, **UNLESS** you decide to fear God and keep his commandments and labor in the LORD during your sojourn, then it is not in vain.

What are you doing with your life? Don't waste it. Do something for Jesus!

### King Solomon:

Solomon wrote three books of the Bible (Proverbs, Song of Solomon, and Ecclesiastes)  
Son of David and the Lord loved him (2 Samuel 12:24)

He reigned in David's stead (1 Kings 1:30-40) for 40 years (1 Kings 11:42)

Solomon's attitude towards sin (1 Kings 1:52)

He loved the Lord (1 Kings 3:3-4)

\*\*Before Solomon asks for wisdom, David ask the Lord to give him it (1 Chronicles 29:19)

He asked for wisdom and God gave it to him plus many other blessings (1 Kings 3:5-15, 1 Kings 4:29-34, James 1:5-8)

He built the first temple according to the pattern God showed is father David (1 Kings 6-8)

The Queen of Sheba (1 Kings 10:1-13)

His glory (1 Kings 10:23-24)

The Lord's warning to Solomon (1 Kings 9:3-9)

Solomon's problem (1 Kings 11:1-13, 2 Kings 23:1-26, Nehemiah 13:23-27)

Oh by the way Jesus is greater than Solomon (Matthew 12:42)

Solomon was the wisest man that ever lived. The Lord filled his heart with knowledge, understanding, and wisdom, so much so that the whole earth sought after him. Now here is what the wisest man that ever lived said, "Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity."

### Solomon poses some great questions:

Ecclesiastes 1:3, 2:22, 3:9, 5:15-16, 6:12

### Things from Ecclesiastes:

Solomon's testimony (Ecclesiastes 1:12-18)

Solomon says a man's labor is vain (Ecclesiastes 1:3, 14)

Solomon says to know wisdom, madness, and folly vexes the spirit (Ecclesiastes 1:17)

Solomon says mirth and enjoying pleasure is vain (Ecclesiastes 2:1-2)

Solomon's experiment in chapter 2:

\*Solomon decides to partake of all the things the world says you ought to live for and what life is all about (drinking, partying, pleasure, materialism, music, wealth, making a name for yourself, do and get your heart's desire). It's called the "Eat, drink, and be merry: for tomorrow we die" syndrome (1 Corinthians 15:32).

Solomon gave himself to mirth and pleasure (2:1)

Solomon gave himself to wine that he might learn folly (2:2)

Solomon built himself great things: many houses, vineyards, gardens, and pools (2:4-6)

Solomon got himself servants and maidens, had great possessions, had great riches of gold and silver, got himself singers (2:7-8)

Solomon got whatsoever his heart desired (2:10)

Solomon rejoiced in all his labor and portion (2:10)

Solomon then says after experiencing what the world says it's all about that all was vanity and vexation of spirit and there was no profit to any of it (2:11). It was worthless and extremely dissatisfying (my personal testimony about it)

Wisdom is better than folly (Ecclesiastes 2:13, 9:16, 9:18) but even so, what does it matter, I die like the fool next to me anyway (Ecclesiastes 2:14-17). This caused Solomon to hate life and his labor, because all was vain (Ecclesiastes 2:17-18).

He says man's days are filled with sorrows and grief and his heart takes no rest in the night (Ecclesiastes 2:23).

God *gives* to a man that is good in God's sight wisdom, knowledge, and joy: but to the sinner he gives travail (Ecclesiastes 2:26).

To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)

God has set the world in the hearts of the sons of men so we cannot find out the work that God makes from the beginning to end (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

The eye is not satisfied with riches and the people who labor NEVER ask for whom do I labor (Ecclesiastes 4:8). See also Ecclesiastes 5:10.

All the labor of man is for this mouth and yet his appetite is not filled (Ecclesiastes 6:7).

### Good points Solomon makes:

Ecclesiastes 7:2-5

The heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil (Ecclesiastes 8:11)

Men's hearts are full of evil (Ecclesiastes 9:3).

Time and chance happens to them all (Ecclesiastes 9:11).

To the young man (Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:1).

### What are we to do since all is vanity and vexation of spirit?

Eat, drink, and make yourself enjoy good in your labor – this is from God (Ecclesiastes 2:24, 3:13, 8:15).

Rejoice and do good in your life (Ecclesiastes 3:12).

Rejoice in your own works – it is your portion (Ecclesiastes 3:22, 5:18-20).

See also Ecclesiastes 9:7-10.

### Things Solomon knew:

Whatsoever God does, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it nor taken away from it and since God does it men should fear God (Ecclesiastes 3:14).

God requires that which is past (Ecclesiastes 3:15).

God shall judge the righteous and the wicked (Ecclesiastes 3:17).

Be more ready to hear when you go to the house of God (Ecclesiastes 5:1).

If you vow a vow unto God, you better pay it (Ecclesiastes 5:4-5).

Fear God (Ecclesiastes 5:7).

It shall be well with those that fear God (Ecclesiastes 8:12-13).

He that fears God comes forth of them all (Ecclesiastes 7:18).

God gives you prosperity and adversity (Ecclesiastes 7:14, Job 2:10).

God made man upright: but they have sought out many inventions (Ecclesiastes 7:29).

Man cannot figure out the work of God (Ecclesiastes 8:17).

The righteous wise and their works are in the hand of God (Ecclesiastes 9:1).

The Conclusion in light of all things (Ecclesiastes 12:8-14).

### **What is not in vain?**

It is not vain for you to keep and perform the words of the book (Deuteronomy 32:45-47, see also Ephesians 6:1-3).

Following the LORD and serving him with all the heart is not in vain (1 Samuel 12:16-25, Malachi 3:13-17).

Seeking the LORD is not in vain (Isaiah 45:19)

Believing in the LORD, obeying his statutes is not a vain thing (2 Kings 17:13-15).

Siding with the Lord and his Christ is not a vain thing (Psalm 2:1-2)

Washing your hands and cleaning your heart is not in vain (Psalm 73:13, Jeremiah 4:14)

Whatever the LORD builds is not in vain (Psalm 127:1)

Glorifying the LORD and being thankful towards him is not in vain (Romans 1:21)

Believing the gospel is not in vain since it saves you from your sins (1 Corinthians 15:2)

Whatever gift of grace God has given you was and is not in vain (1 Corinthians 15:10)

Read Deuteronomy 10:12-13, Micah 6:6-8, Job 28:28, Acts 17:16-31

Your labor is not in vain if it's in the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58)