

What's the Point?

2024 Winter Teaching Series Outline Through Ecclesiastes

1. **Points of Pleasure - Ecc. 1&2 - Jan 14**
 - a. What do we already know about Solomon, the probable author of Ecclesiastes? (1:1,12,16) Consider **2 Kings 13**.
 - b. *Vanity* (1:2) Consider **James 4:14** as you discuss Solomon's intended purpose in using this term.
 - c. What do you think Solomon means by '*under the sun*'? (1:9-10,14)
 - d. In what ways have you observed how people *seek and search* for meaning in life? (1:13) Can you catch the wind? (1:17)
 - e. Did Solomon ultimately find purpose in pleasure? (2:11) How does pleasure point us toward our Creator? (2:24-26) Is this the point of pleasure?
2. **Time Together - Ecc. 3&4 - Jan 21**
 - a. In what way does God make *everything beautiful in its time*? (3:11)
 - b. What does it mean that God *has put eternity into man's heart*? Does this speak to Solomon's endless search for meaning under the sun?
 - c. How does God's sovereign plan relate to time? (3:14-15) Does this fit within our physical understanding or go beyond *time* as we know it?
 - d. Have competition and consumption gotten in the way of real community? (4:4-8) Instead of caring for our neighbour, do we want to beat them up the ladder?
 - e. What benefits of community does Solomon suggest? (4:9-12)
3. **Speaking of Spoils - Ecc. 5&6 - Jan 28**
 - a. Why *draw near to listen* at the house of God? (5:1) consider **Deut. 6:4**.
 - b. Do you ever speak before thinking? (5:2-3) Consider **James 1:19**.
 - c. Why argue with God? (6:10-12)
 - d. What's the problem with trying to find meaning in money? (5:10-12)
 - e. How long can we hold onto our wealth? (5:13-17, 6:1-2)
 - f. How is contentment and satisfaction possible? (5:18-20,6:3-9)
4. **Happy Endings - Ecc. 7&8 - Feb 4**
 - a. Have you ever considered how you will be remembered? (7:1)
 - b. If there were no sadness, could there be any gladness? (7:2-6)
 - c. Are we wise in how we're approaching our latter days? (7:10-13)
 - d. What kind of teacher is adversity? (7:14)
 - e. Can we care too much about what others think? (7:21-22) What about our testimony and witness in the world?
 - f. Why is Humanity naturally bent toward wrong? (7:29, 8:11-14) Why do the wicked prosper? (**Job 21:7, Psalm 37:7**)
5. **Life's Surprising Gift - Ecc 9&10 - Feb 11**
 - a. If we all die, is there a point to living? (9:1-3)
 - b. What does Solomon mean by the *living has hope*? (9:4-6)
 - c. What do enjoyable things tell us about the one who created them? (9:7-10)
 - d. Can we really know how much time we have? (9:11-12)
 - e. How do you feel about life's surprise curveballs? (10:5-11)
6. **Growing Old - Ecc 11&12 - Feb 18**
 - a. With so much unknown, how should we *invest* our life? (11:1-4, 6)

- b. In what ways have you seen creation reveal the creator? (11:5, 7)
- c. Are you over birthdays?(11:8-10) Why should we find joy in each year? How would you encourage a young person to enjoy their youth?
- d. What should young people remember? (12:1) Is growing old a bad thing?
- e. What's so difficult about old age? (12:2-5) How do these pictures relate to the call to *remember our creator in the days of our youth*?
- f. Is *returning to dust* the ultimate end of mankind? (12:6-8)

7. The End of the Matter - Ecc 12 - Feb 25

- a. When do we know we're done searching? (12:9-10,12)
- b. Why did we study Ecclesiastes? (12:11) Why does the shepherd prod the sheep? Consider **Psalm 23**.
- c. What does it mean to fear God? (12:13) Is this where Solomon finds ultimate meaning?
- d. Is it our ultimate duty to determine the meaning of life? (12:14)