

Date: 12 Oct 25

Text: Ecclesiastes 4:1-16

Message: Ted Rastatter

Questions: Jason Finke

In this week's passage, Solomon continues writing about how everything done under the sun (without the remembrance and fear of God) is meaningless. First, he points out how injustice (oppression and the evil that people do to each other) renders life meaningless. Solomon also notes that even the work we do and the skills we develop are done because of rivalry between men. He also writes about the futility of both laziness and overwork – neither of which will satisfy. Solomon then transitions to the benefits of companionship (greater return on labor, help when one falls, warmth, and defense) before concluding with the fleetingness of popularity.

Main Point: Keeping an Eternal Perspective

- 1. One reason so many people despair: Injustice**
- 2. One way we try to cope with the world: Work**
- 3. One temptation we need to avoid: Going it alone**

Discussion

1. In the sermon, Ted discussed how the injustice we see in the world can cause us to despair. Do you find yourself at times despairing over what's happening in the world? Why is there so much injustice in the world? How can we use the prevalence of evil as a segue to sharing the Gospel with people?
2. Ted also noted that one way people try to cope with the evil they see in the world is through their work. Through continuous work (and striving to earn more money/acquire more possessions), man is looking for something to satisfy his heart. Why can work and striving for material possessions ultimately not satisfy the heart? Do you find yourself seeking satisfaction in work/acquiring possessions? How can we resist the temptation to do so?
3. Furthermore, Ted highlighted the need to avoid the temptation to "go it alone". Why are we tempted to give up on relationships when we get hurt? Can you think of examples where you've done this? He also noted that many people allow past hurts caused by other church members to cause them to distance themselves from the church. Why is it dangerous for a Christian to try to "go it alone"?

Reflection: Throughout our series in Ecclesiastes, we've seen the vanity (meaninglessness) of life under the sun. We've also been reminded that we can only find true satisfaction in life by living our lives for Jesus. How can we keep our focus on living for Christ instead of living for ourselves?