

## **Salt Water – Ecclesiastes 1:12-2:26**

This week, we looked at an extended account of Solomon's search for meaning "under the sun". Take a minute to skim it over in your Bible.

- 1) Spend a couple of minutes talking about Solomon's chase. What stands out to you about it?**
- 2) Thinking about your own life until now, what are some of the things that you have run hard after thinking "if I only had..."?**

Martin Luther said, "Anything on which your heart relies and depends, I say, that is really your God." Solomon was able to get everything he chased, but it didn't deliver what he hoped. These things made poor gods and left him despising and despairing of life. This is a picture of what is left to us because of the fall into sin and the curse that followed it

- 3) Why are we so prone to "worship" – to pour ourselves out for something we hope will make us ok and give us meaning?**
- 4) Why can't we find meaning in so many of the places we look?**

Idolatry is beyond just something we do – it is something we are enslaved to because of sin. We were created to be worshippers, but sin has separated us from the only One who satisfies us. We are destined to chase the wind or try to quench our thirst with saltwater. It is something that, first and foremost, we must be delivered from.

- 5) How does the work of Jesus for us change free us and change our situation? (cf Galatians 4:8)**
- 6) How does this understanding of idolatry inform our hearts to those who resist and oppose us and have not been reconciled to God?**
- 7) Even knowing all this, it is easy for us to run back to idolatry. Why? How can we help each other resist?**

For prayer tonight let's focus on seeking the Lord for each other up in this struggle:

- 8) What particular things do you see yourself prone to putting your hope in (aka idolizing)?**