

INTRODUCTION:

This week we saw that the message of Ecclesiastes is divided up into three sections, the prologue, the monologue and the epilogue. In the prologue Solomon gets right to the point he declares his thesis statement for the remainder of the book. ““Vanity of vanities,” says the Preacher; “Vanity of vanities, all is vanity.” What profit has a man from all his labor In which he toils under the sun?” (Ecclesiastes 1:2–3, NKJV)

MAINPOINT:

The monotony of life is very discouraging without the right perspective.

SERMON RESPONSE QUESTION:

When it comes to responding to life, what is your natural inclination? One of an eternal mindset or one that is temporal? Examples? What impact does each mind set have on you?

BIBLE STUDY QUESTIONS: Read Ecclesiastes 1:2-11

1. How does the term “under the sun” play a role in Solomon’s conclusion that all is vanity (fleeting, vapor, useless)?
2. Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-18 How does Paul’s perspective differ from that of Solomon’s? What are some other phrases or statements that Paul uses in this passage that reveal he has an appropriate view on life?
3. We mentioned Ecclesiastes 12:1 which encourages the reader to remember their Creator in the days of their youth...what do you think Solomon is getting at here? How does remembering your creator bring comfort in the monotony of life?
4. In Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 We see Solomon’s final conclusion (which we will study in more detail later in the series) where we are encouraged to fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man’s all. What does he mean when he says mans all? How does this play a role in how you live your life?

WAYS TO PRAY:

- **Recognize God’s power and purpose over all areas of life not matter how monotonous they may be.**
- **Pray for wisdom in seeing this temporal life for what it is...not our final home.**
- **Thank God for his continued faithfulness in the midst of this temporal world.**

Next Week: Ecclesiastes Chapter 1:12-2