



ECCLESIASTES

Discovering Life in the Land of Death



Ecclesiastes 3:16-4:6 ESV

¹⁶ Moreover, I saw under the sun that in the place of justice, even there was wickedness, and in the place of righteousness, even there was wickedness. ¹⁷ I said in my heart, God will judge the righteous and the wicked, for there is a time for every matter and for every work



Ecclesiastes 3:16-4:6 ESV

¹⁸ I said in my heart with regard to the children of man that God is testing them that they may see that they themselves are but beasts.¹⁹ For what happens to the children of man and what happens to the beasts is the same; as one dies, so dies the other. They all have the same breath, and man has no advantage over the beasts, for all is vanity. ²⁰ All go to one place. All are from the dust, and to dust all return. ²¹ Who knows whether the spirit of man goes upward and the spirit of the beast goes down into the earth? ²² So I saw that there is nothing better than that a man should rejoice in his work, for that is his lot. Who can bring him to see what will be after him?



Ecclesiastes 3:16-4:6 ESV

Again I saw all the oppressions that are done under the sun. And behold, the tears of the oppressed, and they had no one to comfort them! On the side of their oppressors there was power, and there was no one to comfort them.² And I thought the dead who are already dead more fortunate than the living who are still alive.³ But better than both is he who has not yet been and has not seen the evil deeds that are done under the sun.



Ecclesiastes 3:16-4:6 ESV

⁴ Then I saw that all toil and all skill in work come from a man's envy of his neighbor. This also is vanity and a striving after wind. ⁵ The fool folds his hands and eats his own flesh. ⁶ Better is a handful of quietness than two hands full of toil and a striving after wind.

Problem #1: Injustice In The World



Ecclesiastes 3:16-17

¹⁶ Moreover, I saw under the sun that in the place of justice, even there was wickedness, and in the place of righteousness, even there was wickedness. ¹⁷ I said in my heart, God will judge the righteous and the wicked, for there is a time for every matter and for every work

Problem #2: Death In The World



Ecclesiastes 3:18-22

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Problem #2: Death In The World



Ecclesiastes 3:18-22

¹⁹ For what happens to the children of man and what happens to the beasts is the same; as one dies, so dies the other. They all have the same breath, and man has no advantage over the beasts, for all is vanity. ²⁰ All go to one place. All are from the dust, and to dust all return. ²¹ Who knows whether the spirit of man goes upward and the spirit of the beast goes down into the earth?

Problem #2: Death In The World



Ecclesiastes 3:18-22

²² So I saw that there is nothing better than that a man should rejoice in his work, for that is his lot. Who can bring him to see what will be after him?



John 11:25-26

“I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

Problem #3: Oppression In The World



Ecclesiastes 4:1-3

Again I saw all the oppressions that are done under the sun. And behold, the tears of the oppressed, and they had no one to comfort them! On the side of their oppressors there was power, and there was no one to comfort them.

Problem #3: Oppression In The World



Ecclesiastes 4:1-3

Again I saw all the oppressions that are done under the sun. And behold, the tears of the oppressed, and they had no one to comfort them! On the side of their oppressors there was power, and there was no one to comfort them.² And I thought the dead who are already dead more fortunate than the living who are still alive.³ But better than both is he who has not yet been and has not seen the evil deeds that are done under the *sun*.

Problem #4: Envy In The World



Ecclesiastes 4:4-6

⁴ Then I saw that all toil and all skill in work come from a man's envy of his neighbor. This also is vanity and a striving after wind. ⁵ The fool folds his hands and eats his own flesh. ⁶ Better is a handful of quietness than two hands full of toil and a striving after wind.



Proverbs 15:16

Better is a little with the fear of the LORD, than great treasure and trouble with it.

Proverbs 16:8

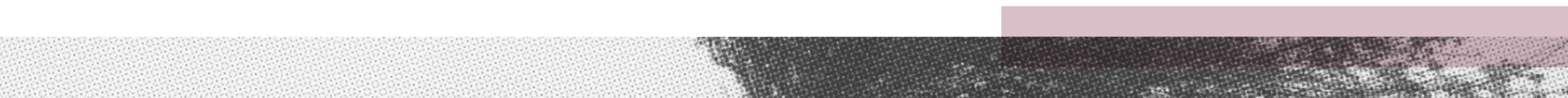
Better is a little with righteousness, than large income with injustice.

1. We Commit To Learning Contentment



Hebrews 13:5

⁵ Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

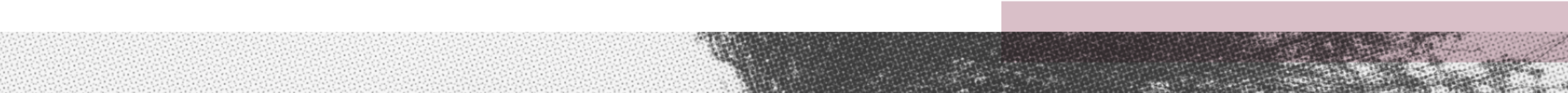


2. We Believe The Doctrine of *Imago Dei* Consistently



Genesis 1:28

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.



3. We Empathize



James 1:19

My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry

“Whenever these two words are uttered, the gospel demands open ears and open hearts. The gospel demands careful, humble, non-defensive listening to the history and wounds beneath the words.”

Scott Sauls

4. We Advocate



Proverbs 31:8-9 CSB

“Speak up for those who have no voice, for the justice of all who are dispossessed. Speak up, judge righteously, and defend the cause of the oppressed and needy.”

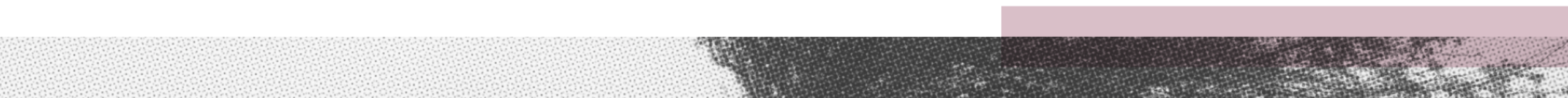


5. We Incarnate



Micah 6:8

“what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?”



6. We Trust That God Will Judge Perfectly



Romans 12:19-21

¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰ To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.



Hebrews 13:5

⁵ Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” ⁶ So we can confidently say,

“The Lord is my helper;
I will not fear;
what can man do to me?”