

March 13, 2022 | Pastor Keith Krell
Ecclesiastes 4:7-16 | “Alone at the Top”

Scripture References

Ecclesiastes 4:7–16

Genesis 1:26; 2:18

Psalms 121

John 15:15–17

Philippians 2:1–8

Hebrews 3:12–13; 10:23–25

Proverbs 11:14; 15:22; 20:18; 24:6; 27:17

Study Questions

1. To what extent do you find pleasure in your work (4:7–8)? How can you learn to enjoy what you do? What self-imposed requirements have you placed on yourself that make it difficult to find fulfillment in your work? In what ways are you guilty of striving for more “things” at the expense of your family, friends, and church? How can you adjust your priorities to better reflect eternal goals?
2. How are you a team player in your work environment (4:9–12)? How do you cooperate with coworkers to help them in their job? Can you honestly say that you want the success of others more than you want your own? How do you seek to have meaningful relationships with others? In whom are you currently investing your time and energy?
3. Who is helping you be more productive spiritually? How do you find comfort in the friendships you have with other believers? Can you identify several friends who would be available at a moment’s notice if you experienced some personal tragedy? If not, how much of a premium have you put on developing good friends?
4. How have you recognized the limitations of wisdom (4:13–16)? What about the fickle nature of popularity? How are you seeking to develop an apprentice or successor? Why do you yearn for position and prestige when you know that it’s so temporal? How can you alter your mindset so that you make the most of your life on this earth? How can you also store up treasure for yourself in eternity? Read Matthew 6:19–21 and 1 Corinthians 3:10–15.
5. Imagine being on your deathbed. Are you satisfied with how much time you invested in family and friends? If not, what can you do to keep from having major regrets at the end of your life? What role does Jesus’ words in Matthew 6:33–34 play in helping you balance every area of your life? How can you put God’s kingdom first in your singleness, marriage, family, work, and church?

Recommended Reading

Brett McCracken, *Uncomfortable: The Awkward and Essential Challenge of Christian Community* (Crossway, 2017)

Joseph H. Hellerman, *When the Church Was a Family: Recapturing Jesus’ Vision for Authentic Christian Community* (B&H Academic, 2009)

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together* (Harper & Row, 1954)