

# Ecclesiastes 6

To God the Glory

## I. A Common Evil: A Soul Unsatisfied

1 There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, and it is common among men:

- **Evil under the Sun:** Temporal

2 A man to whom God has given riches and wealth and honor, so that he lacks nothing for himself of all he desires; yet God does not give him power to eat of it, but a foreigner consumes it. This is vanity, and it is an evil affliction.

- **God given** riches [money]/wealth[treasures]/honor
- Another man consumes it [eats/burns up/devours it]

3 If a man begets a hundred children and lives many years, so that the days of his years are many, but his soul is not satisfied with goodness, or indeed he has no burial, I say that a stillborn child is better than he—

- **Soul not Satisfied:** No relationship with God
- **No burial:** No relationship with Others; i.e. despised and un-mourned

I say that a stillborn child is better than he— [Solomon sounding like Job?]

4 for it comes in vanity and departs in darkness, and its name is covered with darkness. 5 Though it has not seen the sun or known anything, this has more rest than that man, 6 even if he lives a thousand years twice—but has not seen goodness. Do not all go to one place?

- Long life with no satisfaction/goodness... **is pitiable**

**Psalm 27:1** [David] The Lord is my light and my salvation...13 I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord In the land of the living.

**Psalm 34:8** Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!

- Do not all go to one place? Resigned to doom

**Fatalism:** The belief that all events are predetermined and therefore inevitable. a submissive outlook, resulting from a fatalistic attitude

7 All the labor of man is for his mouth, And yet the soul is not satisfied.

- **Summary of above:**
  1. We can satisfy our physical hunger with food
  2. We can only satisfy our Spiritual hunger with Jesus

**Matthew 4:4** But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone,

but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.” [cf. Deut. 8:3]

- Jesus the Living Word of God

**John 6:27** Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you... **35** And Jesus said to them, “**I am the bread of life.** He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

- Physical food can never satisfy the **soul** of man:
  1. The only One who can truly satisfy the human heart is the One who made it
  2. When we have nothing left but God we find that God is enough
- Solomon continues his fatalistic rant...

**8** For what more has the wise man than the fool? What does the poor man have, Who knows how to walk before the living?

- Both hunger, get sick, get depressed, die

**9** Better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of desire. This also is vanity and grasping for the wind.

- One bird in the hand better than two in the bush

**10** Whatever one is, he has been named already, For it is known that he is man; And he cannot contend with Him who is mightier than he.**11** Since there are many things that increase vanity, How is man the better?

- **Fatalism:** Kay surah surah; whatever will be will be

**SUMMARY: A Common Evil:** A Soul not Unsatisfied. Fatalism. No answers.

## **II. Jesus is the Answer: 2 Questions**

**12** For who knows what is good for man in life, all the days of his vain life which he passes like a shadow?

**Question #1:** Who knows what is good for man?

**Answer:** Jesus; the One who created us

- **Living Word of God**

**John 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. **4** In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

- **Written Word of God**

**2 Peter 1:3** [Jesus] divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness

**John 10:10** I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

**2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

- **Who knows what is good for man?** Jesus knows and has shown us in His Word

**12b** Who can tell a man what will happen after him under the sun?

**Question #2:** Who knows what will happen after we die?

**Answer:** Jesus; the One who experienced/conquered death says:

- Every human being will be judged...
- Every human being will be forever in one of two places:
  1. **Heaven:** Eternal Reward
  2. **Hell:** Eternal Punishment

- **Solomon spoke of judgment:**

**Ecclesiastes 12:13** Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all.<sup>14</sup> For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.

- What work will be sufficient to save your soul? **Only one...**

**John 6:28** ...they said to [Jesus], "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?"  
29 Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you **believe in Him whom He sent.**"

**Who knows what is good for man? Who knows what will happen after we die?**  
**Jesus**