



DANUBE
INTERNATIONAL CHURCH

Ecclesiastes

LIFE IN LIGHT OF ETERNITY





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LIFE IN LIGHT OF ETERNITY

Money, Meaning and The Good Life

Ecclesiastes 5:8 - 6:12



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8 If you see in a province the oppression of the poor and the violation of justice and righteousness, do not be amazed at the matter, for the high official is watched by a higher, and there are yet higher ones over them. 9 But this is gain for a land in every way: a king committed to cultivated fields. 10 He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity. 11 When goods increase, they increase who eat them, and what advantage has their owner but to see them with his eyes? 12 Sweet is the sleep of a laborer, whether he eats little or much, but the full stomach of the rich will not let him sleep. 13 There is a grievous evil that I have seen under the sun: riches were kept by their owner to his hurt, 14 and those riches were lost in a bad venture. And he is father of a son, but he has nothing in his hand. 15 As he came from his mother's womb he shall go again, naked as he came, and shall take nothing for his toil that he may carry away in his hand. 16 This also is a grievous evil: just as he came, so shall he go, and what gain is there to him who toils for the wind? 17 Moreover, all his days he eats in darkness in much vexation and sickness and anger

Ecclesiastes 5:8 - 6:12

18 Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting is to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of his life that God has given him, for this is his lot. 19 Everyone also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and rejoice in his toil—this is the gift of God. 20 For he will not much remember the days of his life because God keeps him occupied with joy in his heart.

6:1 There is an evil that I have seen under the sun, and it lies heavy on mankind: 2 a man to whom God gives wealth, possessions, and honor, so that he lacks nothing of all that he desires, yet God does not give him power to enjoy them, but a stranger enjoys them. This is vanity; it is a grievous evil.

Ecclesiastes 5:8 - 6:12

3 If a man fathers a hundred children and lives many years, so that the days of his years are many, but his soul is not satisfied with life's good things, and he also has no burial, I say that a stillborn child is better off than he. 4 For it comes in vanity and goes in darkness, and in darkness its name is covered. 5 Moreover, it has not seen the sun or known anything, yet it finds rest rather than he. 6 Even though he should live a thousand years twice over, yet enjoy no good—do not all go to the one place? 7 All the toil of man is for his mouth, yet his appetite is not satisfied. 8 For what advantage has the wise man over the fool? And what does the poor man have who knows how to conduct himself before the living? 9 Better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of the appetite: this also is vanity and a striving after wind. 10 Whatever has come to be has already been named, and it is known what man is, and that he is not able to dispute with one stronger than he. 11 The more words, the more vanity, and what is the advantage to man? 12 For who knows what is good for man while he lives the few days of his vain life, which he passes like a shadow? For who can tell man what will be after him under the sun?



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Ecclesiastes 5:8 - 6:12

Money, Meaning and The Good Life

Ecclesiastes 5:8 - 6:1-12

I. The Illusion of Control - (Ecc. 5:8-9; 6:10-12)

II. The Illusion of Sufficiency - (Ecc. 5:10-17; 6:1-9)

III. The Gift we cannot Manufacture- (Ecc. 5:18-20)

Money, Meaning and The Good Life

Ecclesiastes 5:8 - 6:1-12

Bread

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→ **IIB. The Illusion of Sufficiency** - (Ecc. 5:10-17)

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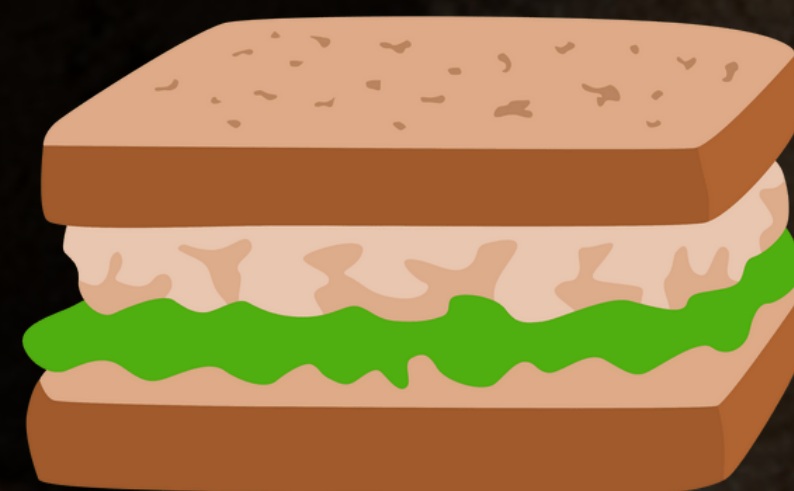
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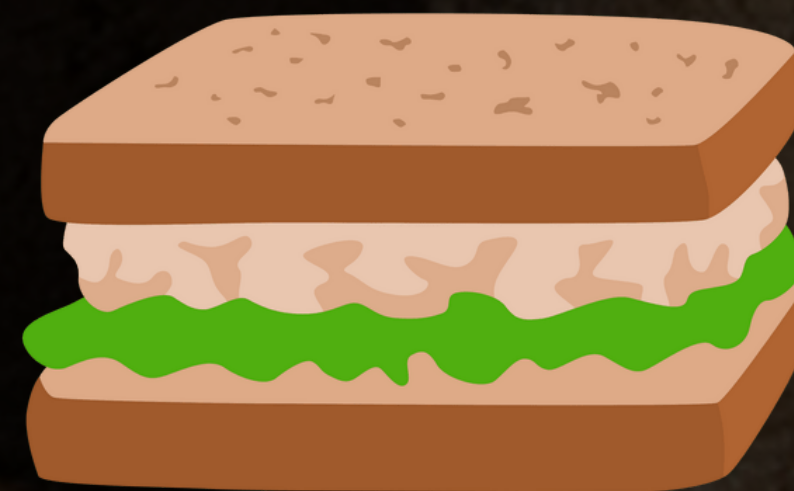
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Money, Meaning and The Good Life

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To name something is to define it, to fix its reality. Naming implies settled boundaries. You don't name what is fluid. You name what is determined.

Derek Kidner

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Dependence, in the end, is not weakness. It is worship.

Money, Meaning and The Good Life

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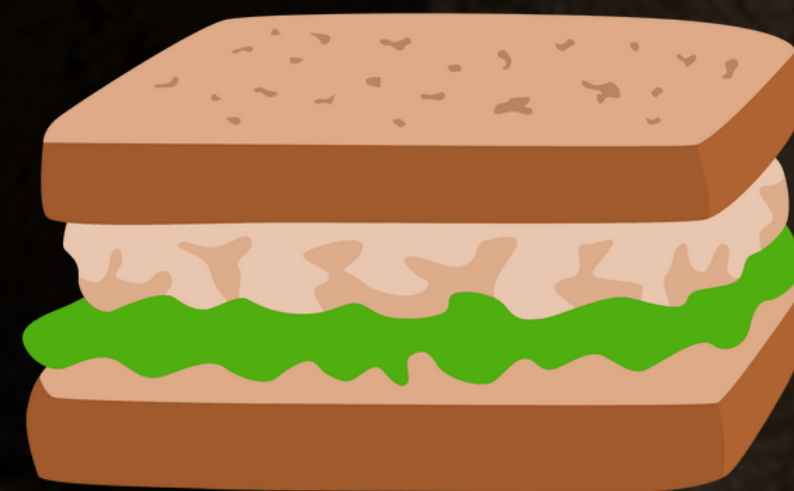
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Money, Meaning and The Good Life

Ecclesiastes 5:8 - 6:1-12

II. The Illusion of Sufficiency - (Ecc. 5:10-17)

10 *He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity.* 11 When goods increase, they increase who eat them, and what advantage has their owner but to see them with his eyes? 12 Sweet is the sleep of a laborer, whether he eats little or much, but the full stomach of the rich will not let him sleep. 13 There is a grievous evil that I have seen under the sun: riches were kept by their owner to his hurt, 14 and those riches were lost in a bad venture. And he is father of a son, but he has nothing in his hand. 15 As he came from his mother's womb he shall go again, naked as he came, and shall take nothing for his toil that he may carry away in his hand. 16 This also is a grievous evil: just as he came, so shall he go, and what gain is there to him who toils for the wind? 17 Moreover, all his days he eats in darkness in much vexation and sickness and anger

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Wealth Expands Complexity

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The Fragility of Financial Security

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The Complexity and Fragility of Financial Security



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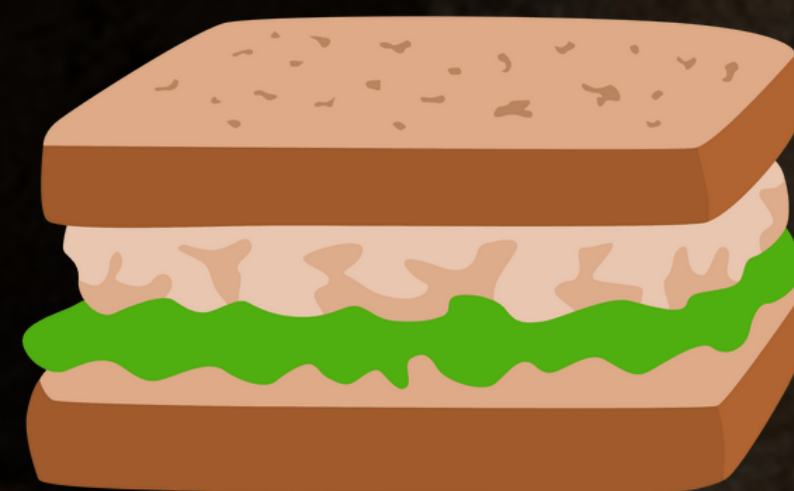
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There is a Gospel Beneath this Warning.

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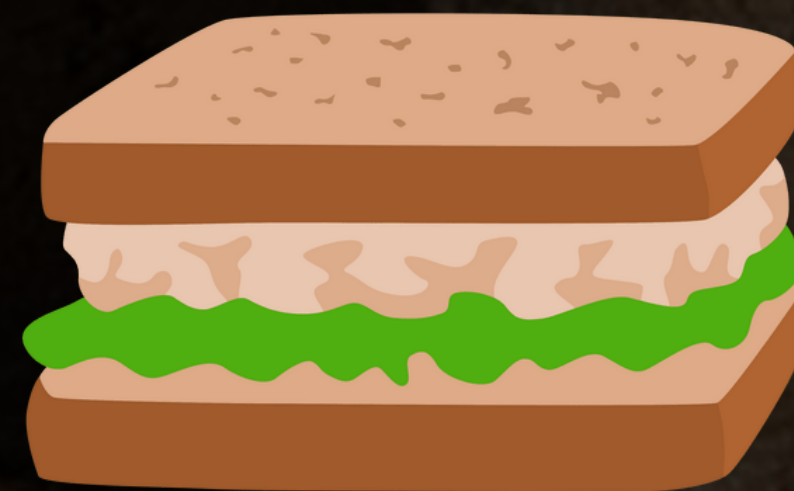
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**That does not mean life becomes easy.
It means the heart becomes anchored.**

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Why does Ecclesiastes press so hard?

**Because sufficiency was never meant to come from success.
It was meant to come from God.**

Because misplaced trust will eventually collapse under you.

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III. **The Gift we cannot manufacture** - (Ecc. 5:18-20)

How do we live Free?

1. **Hold Power Lightly**

Work with integrity. Lead faithfully. Advocate for justice.

But remember: you are not the savior of your institution.

You are a servant under a sovereign God.

Say often: *“I am not stronger than the One who named all things.”*

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How do we live Free?

2. **Practice Intentional Contentment**

“Better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of the appetite.” 6:9

Better to enjoy the meal in front of you than crave the life you do not yet have.

Enjoy:

- The ordinary Sunday worship in a rented space.
- Your child at this age.
- This season of work.
- This city while you are here.

Contentment is rebellion against a restless appetite.

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The Gospel

Ecclesiastes exposes our hunger.



Money, Meaning and The Good Life

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The Gospel

Ecclesiastes exposes our hunger.

**He surrendered control—even to death. Why?
So that your security would not rest in fluctuating
systems but in a finished redemption.**



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Dr. Walter Kaiser