



## **Eccl. 4&5 (Life is hard), ...then you die. Notes**

**4:1-3; 5:8-9** The Teacher has **2 Complaints**:

**1. Corruption:** everyone is out for gain (at the expense of others). **Yet:**

- **God is still in control:** Joseph: *You meant it for evil, God meant it for good.*
- **God isn't distant/alooof to evil.** He has/will right all wrongs (Rev.22).
- **God is a comforter** who "holds our tears in a bottle". The oppressors don't get away with it.

**2. Covetousness: V.4; 7-8; 5:10-20** - It springs from desire of wanting more than others.

**Cure #1: Contentment - V.6** - Rest: *the deep wellbeing of someone who knows balance.*

Stop longing for the life you think you want that you can't even control and be **content** with what you have, and the byproduct is you stop using others as a means to an end.

**Cure #2: Community - 4:9-12** - *Life without others is meaningless.*

We are better together: 1. *Productivity*; 2. *Help in need*; 3. *Comfort in life*; 4. *Safety*.

**Simple Summary:** Teacher says the key to enjoying life is to be happy right now by not longing for the next best and be purposeful about community.

**5:1-7** Ecclesiastes 1-4 has been about the Worship of materialism, hedonism and intellectualism and the consequences to our misdirected worship to ourselves and to others. When I love money, I use people.

**Cure #3: Great Commandment: Love God and Love Others (Mt. 22).**

Enjoying life to the fullest and a life of obedience to God are one in the same is what Solomon concludes. John Piper: *it is our duty to pursue Christian hedonism (pleasure as God defines it).*

Consider what the Bible says:

- the aim of all of Jesus's commandments is that our joy be full (John 15:11);
- that if we delight ourselves in the Lord, he will give us the desire of our heart (Ps. 37:4);
- that there is great gain in godliness with contentment (1 Tim. 6:6);
- that "whoever loses his life for me will find it" (Mt. 16:24-25).
- If we seek first His kingdom, all will be added (Mt. 6:33)

### **Grow Group Questions:**

1. Ask yourself the question in Eccl. 4:8 "for whom am I toiling (CSB-striving)" and for what purpose? Do I need to re-evaluate my priorities?
2. Do I live by faith, simply taking God at his word? God says it, so I do it? If we don't, why not?
3. Why are we more isolated than 20 years ago? What steps can I take to create more community?
4. Is my yes, yes and no, no, even to my own hurt (Ps.15:4)? Or am I constantly "wiggling" out of commitments, even small ones.

### **Announcements 3/12**

- Church Workday – 3/18 from 9am-12pm
- Spring Grow Groups – choose a group and sign up at [feathersoundchurch.com/grow](http://feathersoundchurch.com/grow)
- Passover Seder Dinner – 4/6 at 6:30pm in FH – Register at [feathersoundchurch.com/events](http://feathersoundchurch.com/events)
- Easter Baptisms after Sunrise Service – Sign up at [feathersoundchurch.com/baptism](http://feathersoundchurch.com/baptism)