



## Ecclesiastes: *The Vanity of Life Under the Sun*

### Ecclesiastes 4

#### Introduction

- ❖ Purely “under the sun” perspective.
- ❖ The Preacher tells us what he saw then what is better.

#### Oppressive Ambition – 4:1-3

- ❖ The Preacher sees oppression, a thirst for power.
- ❖ There is no comfort for the oppressed.
- ❖ One “under the sun” solution to oppression is death.
- ❖ What is better is to never be born.
- ❖ The “above the sun” solution is the God of all comfort.

#### Envious Ambition – 4:4-6

- ❖ The Preacher sees envy and covetousness.
- ❖ One “under the sun” solution is no ambition.
- ❖ What is better is a balance between work and rest.
- ❖ The “above the sun” solution is godly contentment.

#### Selfish Ambition – 4:7-12

- ❖ The Preacher sees a lonely selfish man.
  - Never satisfied.
  - Inwardly focused.
- ❖ What is better is companionship.
  - Good reward.
  - Help in time of need.
  - Support and comfort in time of distress.
  - Protection and defense in time of attack.
  - Many companions are better than few companions.
- ❖ The “above the sun” solution is community.

#### Political Ambition – 4:13-16

- ❖ A ruler who has wise counselors is better but still forgotten.
- ❖ The “above the sun” solution is an all wise king whose kingdom will not pass away.