



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

Ecclesiastes 3:16-22

## Introduction

- **Solomon's observation:** Under the Sun, there is corruption even in the places it shouldn't be. (16)
- **Two Responses to his observation:**
  - (1) The corrupt aren't going to get away with anything. God will judge everyone in the end. (17)
  - (2) When we live like a bunch of wild animals, how can we possibly expect better than to die like a bunch of wild animals. (18-21)
- **Solomon's Conclusion:** Might as well work hard and enjoy it like an honest man, rather than a corrupt man because...(22a)
  - (1) It's what God has given us to do (22b)
  - (2) We ought to live in light of the judgment to come (22c)

## Solomon's Observation: *Corruption under the Sun*

### ❖ **Ecclesiastes 3:16**

- ❖ Revelation 6:9-10—*I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. They cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth"*
- ❖ Matthew 12:34—*You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil*
- ❖ John 8:44—*You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires*
- ❖ 1 John 4:1—*Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world*

## Solomon's responses to the corruption he has seen

### 1. **God will one day judge the righteous and the wicked**

#### ❖ **Ecclesiastes 3:17**

- ❖ John 5:22-23—*The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father*
- ❖ Revelation 19:2—*"Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, for his judgments are true and just"*
- ❖ Matthew 25:23—*'Well done, good and faithful servant...Enter into the joy of your master*

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- ❖ Matthew 7:23—*'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness'*

### 2. God is humbling humanity

#### ❖ **Ecclesiastes 3:18**

- ❖ Psalm 8:4-7—*what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,*

#### ❖ **Ecclesiastes 3:19-20**

- ❖ Genesis 3:19—*By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return*
- ❖ 1 Peter 5:6—*Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God*

#### ❖ **Ecclesiastes 3:21**

- ❖ Romans 6:23—*For the wages of sin is death*

### Solomon's Conclusion

#### ❖ **Ecclesiastes 3:22**

- ❖ Colossians 3:2—*Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth*
- ❖ Romans 3:10-18—*"None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."  
"Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive."  
"The venom of asps is under their lips."  
"Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness."  
"Their feet are swift to shed blood; in their paths are ruin and misery, and the way of peace they have not known." "There is no fear of God before their eyes."*
- ❖ Romans 8:7-8—*For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*
- ❖ Hebrews 11:6—*without faith it is impossible to please him*
- ❖ Romans 3:28—*For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law*
- ❖ Hebrews 12:2—*...Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God*