UNDER THE SUN

Destitute in Destiny | Part 4

Ecclesiastes 2:18–26 • Congregational Outline & Notes

I. THE DESPAIR OF SELF-FULFILLMENT | Ecclesiastes 2:18–20

Solomon hated the thought of leaving his labor to someone who might be wise or foolish. His focus had become himself, his possessions, and what would happen to them.

• When we become our own source of joy, we eventually become depleted and despairing.
• The flesh cannot be satisfied; it must be crucified (Galatians 5:24–26).
• Sowing to the flesh reaps corruption; sowing to the Spirit reaps life (Galatians 6:8–9).

Where am I seeking fulfillment in what I cannot keep?

II. OUR IDENTITY MUST BE IN CHRIST | John 15:4–6

An identity built “under the sun” leaves us continually searching. Abiding in Christ gives us our true source of life and fruitfulness.

> *“...for without me ye can do nothing.” — John 15:5 (KJV)*

• Possessions cannot sustain our identity.
• Our fulfillment is found in Christ, not in preserving what we have.

What does abiding in Christ change about my priorities?

III. THE VANITY OF EARTHLY LABOR | Ecclesiastes 2:21–26

Solomon observes that hard work, wisdom, and prosperity can bring enjoyment, yet labor and possessions cannot supply lasting fulfillment.

• Enjoying the good of our labor is a gift from God (v. 24).
• Wisdom, knowledge, and joy come from God (v. 26).
• Sin consumes the fruit of labor; even wise labor is empty when it becomes our ultimate focus.

Am I working faithfully while making the results my purpose?

IV. OUR FOCUS MUST BE CHRIST | Matthew 6:31–34

Neither earthly success nor sinful indulgence can satisfy the heart. Our focus must be on God and His kingdom.

> *“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” — Matthew 6:33 (KJV)*

What must change so that Christ, rather than self, is my focus?

TAKEAWAY: When self is the source, despair follows. When Christ is our identity and focus, fulfillment is found in Him.