

The Cycle of Life Notes

Ecclesiastes 1:3-18

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Main Point: Dissatisfaction is designed to lead us to find satisfaction in God alone.

The Unprofitable Work Around Us (1-3)

1. The word, "gain" is a commercial term used in the context of business and literally means, "that which is left over, a _____."
2. The word "toil" was often used to refer to "_____, labor, misery, and trouble."
3. Genesis 2:15 tells us that _____ is part of God's purpose for mankind.
4. Genesis 3:17-19 shows that Adam's fall into sin led him to being frustrated by _____ and weariness.
5. The phrase "under the sun" means, "down here on earth and refers to life _____ God."
6. Work will not, and cannot, fulfill all your _____.

The Unending World Around Us (4-11)

1. People die and others are born while the world around us basically stays the _____.
2. Solomon lists a series of cycles the sun, wind, and water go through.
3. Everything appears to be _____ and monotonous, repetitious, and routine (5-7).
4. As Solomon concluded his science experiment, he found it all to be _____ (vs. 8).
5. He considered three human activities (speech, seeing, hearing) to show how our words are never enough, our eyes are never _____, and our ears are never filled.
6. Verse 11 tells us our memories will _____ us as we forget former things.
7. As we look at the world around us, we get a sense of _____, and as we do an inventory of our own lives, we see how fleeting and frail they are.
8. After we die, we'll be mostly _____ in just a few years.

The Unsatisfying Wisdom Within Us (12-18)

1. When Solomon said he "applied" his heart, the idea is he _____ himself wholeheartedly to this task.
2. The word "seek" means he did a penetrating _____ by exploring and examining closely.
3. The word "search" refers to a comprehensive _____.
4. Solomon's search was sincere, complete, and commendable.
5. The word "unhappy" means "_____" and "business" refers to "a burdensome task."
6. Solomon said he was "busy" with this search, which means he was "afflicted and _____" by it.

7. While Solomon was given wisdom from above to help him rule, when he searched out human wisdom, he found it to be _____ and frustrating.
8. More _____ will not satisfy you, nor will it solve all of society's problems (vs. 15).
9. There are problems that cannot be solved or straightened out by human education or ingenuity because we are a bent and _____ people.
10. In verse 16, Solomon searched inward for wisdom.
11. He concluded in verse 17 that this search "is but a striving after _____."
12. The evidence for human depravity is all around us.
13. The more we know, the more we realize we don't know, and this leads to increased pain and _____.
14. Having more knowledge only means we have a bigger understanding of the _____, not that we're any closer to a solution.
15. Only a relationship with _____ can make the matters of life matter. God alone brings rock-solid meaning to everything under the sun by means of His Son.
16. New things
 - God loves to do new things (Isaiah 43:19).
 - God will give us a new _____ (Isaiah 62:2).
 - We can experience the new birth (John 3:3)
 - We can have a new _____ and a new spirit (Ezekiel 36:26).
 - When we are saved, we become a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17).
 - God enfolds us into a new _____ called the church (Ephesians 2:15).
 - We're given a new commandment (John 13:34).
 - God will eventually make _____ things new (Revelation 21:5).