

ECCLESIASTES: THE SEARCH FOR A LIFE THAT MATTERS

I. Introduction:

If you could write your own epitaph, what you want it to say; that is, what are things for which you want to be remembered?

II. Three Keys to understanding Ecclesiastes:

A. The beginning: "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity" (1:1)

B. The conclusion: "Fear God and keep His commandments (12:13-14).

C. Two repeated themes:

1. "Don't try to unscrew the inscrutable (3:10-11, 6:12, 7:13-14, 8:16-17, 11:5).

2. "Enjoy life while you can" (2:24-25, 3:12,13,22, 5:18-19, 8:15, 9:7-9).

Discussion Questions

1. What was the most helpful or compelling idea from Sunday's sermon?
2. Consider the epitaph question posed on Sunday: what are the things you most want to be remembered for?
3. Consider the conclusion of Ecclesiastes: "fear God and keep his commands." What do you feel called to do at this time in your life as a way of more deliberately fearing God and keeping his commands?
4. As you consider the Ecclesiastes theme of enjoying life while you can, what are some specific ways you'd like to intentionally pursue enjoying your life more at this time?