

OUTLINE 08/09/26
Chasing Work
Ecclesiastes 2-3 (NLT)

After seeking pleasure and education for meaning in life, Solomon turned to work and discovered some more conclusions about himself and God.

1. Looking backward at work is frustrating.

*¹⁸ I came to hate all my hard work here on earth, for I must leave to others everything I have earned. ¹⁹ And who can tell whether my successors will be wise or foolish? Yet they will control everything I have gained by my skill and hard work under the sun. How meaningless! ²⁰ So I gave up in despair, questioning the value of all my hard work in this world. ...²² So what do people get in this life for all their hard work and anxiety? ²³ Their days of labor are filled with pain and grief; even at night their minds cannot rest. It is all meaningless. ...But if a sinner becomes wealthy, God takes the wealth away and gives it to those who please him. This, too, is meaningless—**like chasing the wind**.*
Ecclesiastes 2:18–20, 22-23

2. Looking forward to eternity is better.

⁹ What do people really get for all their hard work? ¹⁰ I have seen the burden God has placed on us all. ¹¹ Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end.
Ecclesiastes 3:9–11

3. Looking towards God is best.

¹² So I concluded ...people should eat and drink and enjoy the fruits of their labor, for these are gifts from God. ¹⁴ And I know that whatever God does is final. Nothing can be added to it or taken from it. God's purpose is that people should fear him. Ecclesiastes 3:12, 14

**JOIN US NEXT WEEK FOR:
CHASING RELATIONSHIPS**

How to Receive Christ:

“Dear Jesus, thank You for loving me even though I'm a sinner. I ask for your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sin and that You rose from the dead. I trust You as my Savior and follow You as Lord, from this day forward. Amen.”

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did God create us to work?
2. How can we balance work, family and God?
3. How can we look forward to eternity?
4. How can we look to God in all things?