

Discussion Questions for Ecclesiastes

Outline from Sunday's Sermon:

1. Solomon's search for meaning in life (chaps 1-2)
2. Solomon's observations from life (chaps 3-6)
3. Solomon's counsel for life (chaps 7-12)

Discussion Questions:

1. The main idea of Ecclesiastes is this: "In a world full of uncertainties, the one certainty we can count on is God, and we can accept our circumstances by trusting in Him and living life as it comes." What are some uncertainties in your life? How will you practically trust in God in the midst of those uncertainties?
2. Read Ecclesiastes 1:3 and 2:11. "Under the sun" appears 29 times throughout Ecclesiastes, and what we have in these three words is a description of what life is like without heaven in view (i.e. no eternal perspective). Share some ways that people in our society do not live with an eternal perspective.
3. Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. Seasons are a part of life. Without them, life would be too monotonous. Just like the changing weather, the seasons of life allow us to experience the full spectrum of God's plan for us. What season of life are you currently in? Is it a good season or a challenging one?
4. Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-12. As human beings, we have been wired for companionship. How have your Christian friends been an encouragement to you recently? How have you encouraged them?
5. Read Ecclesiastes 5:13. One commentator says this: "Fools try to change their life. The wise navigate through it. We'll never straighten what God has bent." The reason why we go through trials and struggles is to make us more dependent on God. In what area of life do you need to be more dependent upon God?
6. A loom is a device that weavers use. One commentator talks about the loom as a picture of life this side of eternity. If you look at the underside of a loom, the garment or rug being woven is not all that beautiful. All you see are knots and snarls and a vague pattern. From our perspective, it doesn't look great. We can't see the full beauty from the underside of a loom. From God's vantage point, however, it's beautiful. He's weaving history together in a wonderful way. If we can just understand life from that perspective, we'll find the meaning of life this side of eternity. Close your time in prayer and ask God to help you see life from His perspective.