

Ecclesiastes

“The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem”

I. Introduction

A. “Under the sun”

1. Realm of vanity
An ecclesiastic is a preacher or teacher.
2. The perspective of *Qoheleth* - Here and now/birth to death
3. Characteristics evident:
 - a. Insatiable
 - b. Drudgery/monotony
 - c. Transcience

B. “The gift of God”

1. First division - conclusion (2:24-26)
 - a. God gives to believer and unbeliever alike - Common grace.
 - b. God does not Man to enjoy himself apart from Him.
 - c. God gives only the believer the capacity to enjoy this life of vanity.
 - d. Ecclesiastes leads us into a profound cheerfulness.
 - 1) 3:12-13
 - 2) 3:22
 - 3) 5:18-19
 - 4) 8:15
 - 5) 9:7-9
 - 6) 12:13

C. Learning Solomon’s lessons (1:12-2:26)

1. The futile search (1:12-18)
 - a. Two kinds of searching
 - 1) To seek - penetrating in-depth analysis
 - 2) Explore - going out in extent
 - 3) Intentional
 - b. Humanity is cursed by God (vv.13b-15)
 - 1) Grievous task - (Gen. 3:17-19)
 - 2) To the ‘Sons of Adam’
 - 3) The crooked cannot be straightened; the deficits cannot be numbered (Total depravity)
 - a) This burdensome task is of God (see 7:13)
 - b) Purpose to arouse men to seek God (see *Institutes, 1.1.1*)
 - c. Wisdom brings no satisfaction (vv. 16-18)
2. Solomon’s two tests
 - a. The futility of pleasure and possessions (2:1-11)
 - 1) Pleasure or Mirth (vv. 1, 2)

2) Wine (v. 3)

3) Works/possessions (vv. 4-11)

a) Property

b) Money

c) Power and privilege

b. Wisdom, madness, and folly

1) Wisdom excels folly - Only God knows why

2) The wise and the foolish both die

a) You can't take it with you

b) You can't control who gets it - What if he is an

idiot?

c) Your labor provides the legacy.