

LIFE UNDER THE SUN

Text: Eccl. 1:13

INTRO: The book of Ecclesiastes is one of the most interesting books in the Bible. The writer is Solomon. Though outside this book, we have no information on Solomon as a preacher, he is the only one who could be described in such verses as 1:1, 12, 16.

This book relates Solomon's search for meaning in life. It sums all the wise man had learned.

SPECIAL NOTES: The word "vanity" is used repeatedly to mean fleeting or temporary. It does not have its common meaning of uselessness, 11:10.

This book gives very little attention to the after-life. It deals with facts & problems concerning the earth-life, life under the sun.

I. COMMON PROBLEMS MEN FACE UNDER THE SUN.

- A. Monotony of life, 1:4-11.
- B. Brevity of the effects of men's labor, 2:17-23.
- C. Miscarriage of justice, 3:16; 8:11.
- D. Oppression of the poor, 4:1-3; 9:14-16
- E. Lust for material things, 4:4-8; 5:10.
- F. Brevity of life itself, 3:19-21; 9:2-3
- G. Desire to relive the past, 7:10.
- H. Universality of sin, 7:20.

II. SEEING THESE PROBLEMS, THE WISE MAN USED NUMEROUS APPROACHES, SEEKING TO FIND MEANING IN LIFE.

- A. Wisdom, philosophy, 1:12-18.
- B. Pleasure, 2:1-2.
- C. Wine, 2:3.
- D. Possessions: Houses & lands, servants & live stock, money, & wealth in general, 2:4-8a
- E. Entertainment, recreation, 2:8b

F. In short, fulfillment of every desire,
2:9-11.

"We didn't find it there, so we
moved on."

III. LESSONS LEARNED ALONG THE WAY.

- A. Wisdom exceeds folly, 2:13-15. A paradox.
- B. A working man has a right to enjoy the fruits of his labor, 2:24-26; 3:12-13
- C. Deeds of men cannot thwart the purposes of God, 3:14.
- D. Failure to fulfill home responsibilities will insure your unhappiness, 9:9-10.
- E. Principle of sowing & reaping, 11:1-4.

IV. LEARNING TO LIVE WITH LIFE'S PROBLEMS,
11:9 thru 12:1 The N.T. offers fresh insight.

- A. Monotony of life, Phil. 3:13; Eph. 1:3; 2:6.
- B. Brevity of our labor. Rev. 14:13.
- C. Miscarriage of justice, Psalm 73:2-3.
- D. Oppression of the poor, Luke 16:25.
- E. Unquenchable thirst for material possessions, LK 12:15; Matt. 6:33
- F. Fear, dread of dying. PHIL 1:21-24.
- G. Desire to relive the past PHIL 3:13-14
- H. Ever-present reality of sin, HEBREWS 10:15-22

CONCLUSION: There is no problem we can't face & overcome with Christ's help. Christ is waiting to help. Would you let Him sprinkle your heart with His cleansing blood and wash your body in the pure waters of N.T. baptism?
READ ECCL. 12:13-14.

La Porte, TX, July 17, 1977
Liberty Hill, TX, October 3, 1977 (meeting)
Hutto, TX, October 7, 1979 (meeting)
La Porte, TX, August 23, 1981
Exton, PA, December 17, 1989
Shiloh, Mexia, TX, March 22, 1992
Washington, NJ, April 5, 1992 (meeting)
Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, November 5, 2000