

Vanity of Life

Ecclesiastes 1 pt 2

"I applied my mind to examine and explore through wisdom all that is done under heaven. God has given people this miserable task to keep them occupied."-Ecclesiastes 1:13

Why does human wisdom fall short in our understanding of God's will for our lives?

*It can diagnose life's problems but it c_____ solve them.

*It increases awareness and s_____.

*It can describe the cycles of life, not break them.

*It cannot give m_____ to life. *It cannot c_____ the human heart.

*It cannot overcome d_____. *It cannot g_____ you what only God g_____.

"King Solomon isn't saying wisdom is useless; he's actually saying wisdom without God is useless."

● Vanity of Wisdom

12-15 I, the Teacher, have been king over Israel in Jerusalem. I applied my mind to examine and explore through wisdom all that is done under heaven. God has given people this miserable task to keep them occupied. I have seen all the things that are done under the sun and have found everything to be futile, a pursuit of the wind. What is crooked cannot be straightened; what is lacking cannot be counted. What are we reminded about King Solomon?

☐ He has been the king over _____ in Jerusalem.

What did King Solomon do?

☐ He sought to e_____ and e_____ through wisdom all that is done under heaven.

Examine: Hebrew word darash meaning to search, seek, question, pursue; penetrating into the depth of a matter.

Explore: Hebrew word tur meaning to meander about, especially for trade, investigate, spy, taking a comprehensive survey of matters further away.

This is to say, if there was anyone who could find the answers to everything about life, its purpose and meaning, it has to be the wisest king who ever lived.

- 1 Kings 3:10-12

What was King Solomon's complaint about God?

God has deliberately built a system where I_____ seems meaningless and empty without the understanding of a living, active God to whom we must give account.

He asserts that it is c_____ of God to create such a system for humanity.

**God has given people this miserable task to keep them occupied. CSB*

Other translations: BSB Heavy burden; ESV unhappy business; NKJV burdensome task; NLT tragic existence; KJV sore travail

How might this “miserable task” actually be evidence of God’s love and mercy?

*God created in us the d_____ and n_____ for that which brings meaning and fulfillment to life.

*God also designed all of c_____ to be futile in the same way.

In other words, God shaped in us a space that only He can fulfil.

- Genesis 3:17-19; Psalm 107:33-34; Romans 8:19-21

As you think about these things, why is it so hard to find the meaning of life without God?

*p_____ *Self-r_____ *Self-l_____

- Jeremiah 29:11; Ephesians 2:10

What did King Solomon find as a result of his observation things done under the sun?

□ He have found everything to be f_____, a p_____ of the wind.

What are some ways we chase the wind?

*Going after m_____ things. *Rewarding oneself with p_____.

*Going after things that have no e_____ value. *Trying to be in c_____.

Ultimately King Solomon came to the conclusion of despair. There are twists and gaps in all thinking. No matter how much the teacher seeks and discovers he cannot straighten out life’s inconsistencies. His search has come to nothing. His accomplishments nor his wisdom could truly make him happy.

“What is crooked cannot be straightened; what is lacking cannot be counted.”

*No matter how hard we try some things cannot be c_____!

Instead of falling into despair, how can we stay encouraged in our search for the meaning of life?

*Trust _____ *Have f_____ in His W_____ *S_____ His W_____

- Job 5:9; 9:10; Isaiah 42:16; Matthew 6:33

16-18 I said to myself, “See, I have amassed wisdom far beyond all those who were over Jerusalem before me, and my mind has thoroughly grasped wisdom and knowledge.” I applied my mind to know wisdom and knowledge, madness and folly; I learned that this too is a pursuit of the wind. For with much wisdom is much sorrow; as knowledge increases, grief increases.

What is King Solomon’s further confirmation? 1 Kings 3:12-13

✓ I said to m_____; some translations say, I communed with my heart.

✓ I have a_____ wisdom far beyond all of those who were over Jerusalem before me.

✓ My mind has t_____ grasped wisdom and knowledge.

Notice how he describes the exploration process:

✓ I applied my mind to know wisdom and knowledge, madness and folly;

Applied: Hebrew word nathan meaning to give, assign, appoint, bear on

What did King Solomon learn?

*It too was c_____ the wind *It caused more g_____ and s_____

*The more he learned the more he realized he didn’t k_____.

How can we apply this in our life today?

- Be careful of only looking I_____ and not considering the God who rules eternity.
- Be careful of wasting your t_____ thinking harder and searching better for things only God can control.
- Psalm 119:136; Romans 7:7-11

What is one thing you have learned that you are willing to share with someone else?

“If you simplify your life, quit chasing the wind, and be quiet before Him, He’ll show up.”