

“Ecclesiastes 4:1-6”

April 8, 2026

- I. Solomon saw large amounts of _____ in this world.

“Again, I looked and saw all the oppression that was taking place under the sun: I saw the tears of the oppressed— and they have no comforter; power was on the side of their oppressors— and they have no comforter.”

Ecclesiastes 4:1 (NIV)

- ❖ This oppression really _____ Solomon.
- ❖ We should have _____ on the oppressed.

“Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.”

Isaiah 1:17 (NIV)

“Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed.”

Psalms 82:3 (NIV)

“Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.”

Proverbs 14:31 (NIV)

- II. Solomon is not thinking of the _____ here. He is just looking at all this from this _____ view.

“And I declared that the dead, who had already died, are happier than the living, who are still alive.”

Ecclesiastes 4:2 (NIV)

- ❖ One day God will make everything _____.
- ❖ God will _____ oppressors and wrong doers.
- ❖ God does reward remaining _____ and _____ when mistreated.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Matthew 5:10-12 (NIV)

“Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.”

James 1:12 (NIV)

III. So much in this world is motivated by _____ and _____.

“And I saw that all toil and all achievement spring from one person’s envy of another. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.”

Ecclesiastes 4:4 (NIV)

❖ Notice there is a tendency when living without God and living in negativism to over _____ the negative.

❖ The Bible doesn’t condemn healthy ethical _____ between corporations and businesses.

IV. It is a fool who just folds his hands and _____.

“Fools fold their hands and ruin themselves.”

Ecclesiastes 4:5 (NIV)

V. It’s better to seek with _____ what we need than to seek with dishonesty that which will not _____.

“Better one handful with tranquility than two handfuls with toil and chasing after the wind.”

Ecclesiastes 4:6 (NIV)

❖ Leaving God out doesn’t bring _____ and _____ regardless of what you have.

“I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength.”

Philippians 4:12-13 (NIV)