



Message-based Study

Date: March 10, 2024

Teacher: Rev. Dr. William (Billy) Burch

Message: 8 Life Lessons from the Wisdom and Folly of Solomon

Video is available online at: visitccc.com

Connection

What is something you can't explain about nature that you find fascinating?

Content

Life Lesson #7: "Life lived apart from God will ultimately be empty regardless of accomplishments and possessions."

Ecclesiastes was written to the people of Israel to demonstrate the meaninglessness of a life without God. Though the author only refers to himself as "the Teacher" Solomon has traditionally been identified as this book's author.

Left To Ourselves Thoughts Become Troubling

1. Read Ecclesiastes 1:1-11. The author is trying to make sense of what is around him and is "stuck in his head." When have you, or someone you know, gotten "stuck in your head"? Describe that feeling.

2. Read Ecclesiastes 1:12-18. The only thing that can help when you find yourself in this situation, is to renew your mind. How do Romans 12:2 and Philippians 4:6-8 speak to this idea of getting out of your head and instead fixing your mind on God?

Left To Ourselves, Emptiness Becomes Apparent

3. Next read Ecclesiastes 2:1-11. Look how the author fills himself with the things of this world to find whatever pleasure he could.

What is the result?

4. Read Psalm 37:4-6. When you become a Christian, you enter into how to make life meaningful instead of meaningless. How was your life changed when you made Christ the focus of it?

Left To Ourselves, The Divine Becomes Distant

5. He wants our lives under the sun to be connected to our life above the sun. When we live, we need to live for God. We can enjoy life but live for the Lord.

Remember, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Proverbs 9:10). What does this statement mean?

How does Proverbs 28:26 shed additional light on this principle?

Commitment

6. Read Ecclesiastes 11:8-10 & Ecclesiastes 7:29. Remember that one day we will need to give an account to God and without Him we will fall into our own downward paths. How can you begin something new this week to reinvigorate your life to be connected to God?

Challenge Assignment: Memorize Proverbs 28:26 this week and put these words to heart.

**Proverbs 28:26 "Those who trust in themselves are fools,
but those who walk in wisdom are kept safe."**