

Union Chapel M.B. Church

Dr. O. Wendell Davis, Pastor/Teacher/Servant Leader

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“Ecclesiastes, Part II”

(Study Material from Through the Bible: A Complete Old & New Testament Bible Study)

Solomon has come to the end of his life and has realized the meaning/lessness of life apart from God – because he foolishly has sought satisfaction and fulfillment apart from God. Solomon had it all! Israel experienced unprecedented peace and prosperity. Because of Solomon’s sin, God divided the kingdom following his death. Ecclesiastes is a sermon on the lessons he has learned.

I. Life Is Meaning/less Apart From God

- a. Repetitions and cycles of nature and human effort are meaning/less – apart from God, 1; 2.
- b. A meaning-full life in God is rich with blessings, Eph 1:3-14.

II. There Is No Satisfaction Apart From God

- a. Solomon tried everything to gain fulfillment in this world, 2:4-10. Nothing satisfies the soul apart from God.
- b. It was never God’s intention for man to leave Him out of the picture. God does bring joy into our lives, but our ultimate satisfaction must be in Him, not in the pleasures of life – and certainly not in the “pleasures” of sin!

III. True Fulfillment Is Found In God Alone

- a. God alone brings joy to the meaning/lessness of life. He enables us to truly enjoy life.
- b. He makes everything beautiful in His time. It is God who enables us to experience contentment and fulfillment, 3:11-14.

IV. Application

- a. Ecclesiastes shows us that having reverential ‘fear’ of God and taking Him seriously affects man’s attitude toward life (12:13-14). Fulfillment is found not in the pleasures of life itself, but in God who gives us life. Obedience to God’s commands results in true happiness, John 10:10; 15:10-11.
- b. All of life is to be lived under God. Let us redeem the time by making better decisions, Eph 5:15-17. Each of us will give an account of our work, Rom 14:11-13.

Notes: