

**GOD ALONE GIVES...**  
(Ecclesiastes 2:18-26)

The MESSAGE of Ecclesiastes is that God designed life to \_\_\_\_\_ Him and be \_\_\_\_\_ in relationship with Him, but apart from a \_\_\_\_\_, vertical, \_\_\_\_\_ relationship with \_\_\_\_\_, man is \_\_\_\_\_ and life is \_\_\_\_\_.

**I. SOLOMON'S INTRODUCTION (1:1-11)**

**II. SOLOMON'S INVESTIGATION (1:12-11:10)**

**A. Solomon's PURSUITS. (1:12-18)**

**B. Solomon's PROOFS that 'ALL is VANITY'. (2:1ff)**

**1. Experiment #1: The pursuit of the dead-end street of \_\_\_\_\_ . (2:1-11)**

**2. Experiment #2: The pursuit of the dead-end street of \_\_\_\_\_ . (2:12 -17)**

**3. Experiment #3: The pursuit of the dead-end street of a \_\_\_\_\_ . (2:18-23)**

**a. His residual conclusion in view of the vanity of life and certainty of death is, "Then I \_\_\_\_\_ my \_\_\_\_\_ {burdensome labor and the fruits of it} in which I had toiled \_\_\_\_\_ . (2:18a)**

**b. His 3 reasons:**

**#1) Because you can't \_\_\_\_\_ it {what you have labored for or earned} or \_\_\_\_\_ it with you after death "because I must \_\_\_\_\_ it to the man who will come after me." (vs. 18b)**

- DVP - Job 1:21; Ecc. 5:15-16; 1 Timothy 6:7; 1 Timothy 6:17-19; Rev. 14:13

**#2) Because you can't guarantee its \_\_\_\_\_ . "And who knows whether he {your successor} will be wise or a fool? Yet he will rule {have control} over all my labor {the outcome of my hours of skilled labor} in which I toiled and in which I have shown myself wise under the sun. This also is \_\_\_\_\_. 20 Therefore I turned my heart and \_\_\_\_\_ of all the labor in which I had toiled under the sun. 21 For there is a man whose labor is with wisdom, knowledge, and skill {very commendable and highly desirable}; yet he must leave {to leave, hand over, pass on} his heritage {or inheritance} to a man who has \_\_\_\_ labored for it. This also is \_\_\_\_\_ and a great evil {great misfortune or tragedy}. (2:19-21)**

- Is leaving an inheritance to your children wrong?
- What is important to leave in light of death & eternity?
- DVP – Prov. 20:6-7; Ephesians 6:4; 1 Corinthians 15:58; 3 John 4

#3) Because in seeking to acquire and enjoy physical wealth comes many \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_. {What are some of these?} “For what has man for all his labor, and for the striving of his heart with which he has toiled under the sun? 23 For all his days are \_\_\_\_\_, and his work \_\_\_\_\_; even in the night his heart takes \_\_\_\_\_. This also is \_\_\_\_\_. (2:22-23) Are you feeling the goad of disillusionment & despair that should drive you to the Lord?

4. *The first nail / tent stake of God’s encouraging & eternal perspective (2:24-26):*

- a. God wants you to thoroughly \_\_\_\_\_ the various aspects of life and find true \_\_\_\_\_ in time. (2:24a) DVP – Philippians 4:10-13
- b. God wants you to grasp that the \_\_\_\_\_ for this fulfillment in life is not found inherently in man but is a \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ involving an eternal relationship with Him. (2:24b-25)
  - Ecclesiastes 5:18 Here is what I have seen {observed}: It is good and fitting for one to eat and drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labor in which he toils under the sun {during their earthly existence} all the days {the few days} of his life which \_\_\_\_\_ him; for it is his heritage {reward}.
  - Ecclesiastes 5:19 As for every man to whom \_\_\_\_\_ riches and wealth, and \_\_\_\_\_ him \_\_\_\_\_ {enablement; ability; capacity} to eat of it, to receive his heritage and rejoice in his labor-- this is the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Ecclesiastes 5:20 For {if he will embrace this viewpoint} he will not dwell unduly on {he will not be occupied with or continually caught up with or brooding about} the {few or fleeting} days of his life, because \_\_\_\_\_ {occupied; preoccupied} with the joy of his heart {derived from the purposes & labors of life as he walks in fellowship with God}.
  - Ecclesiastes 6:1-2 There is an evil {misfortune; tragedy} which I have seen under the sun, and it is common {commonplace; prevalent; weighs heavily on} among men {mankind}: A man to whom \_\_\_\_\_ riches and wealth and honor, so that he lacks nothing for himself of all he desires; yet \_\_\_\_\_ him power {ability; capacity; enablement} to eat of it, but a foreigner consumes it {instead of him}. This is \_\_\_\_\_ {transitory with no lasting gain or value}, and it is an evil affliction {grieving misfortune}.
- c. God wants the believer to remember that “\_\_\_\_\_ wisdom and knowledge and joy to a man who is good in His sight” {pleasing in God’s sight through salvation & then by walking by faith in dependence upon Him and His plan & promises}. (2:26a)
- d. God wants the unbeliever to sense that he will ultimately \_\_\_\_\_ in both time and eternity. “This also is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.” (2:26b) But it doesn’t have to be this way!