

A Look at One Book - Ecclesiastes

The Point of Life in the Pointlessness of Life

I. Author and Occasion (Who and Why?)

A. Author - The Preacher.

B. Occasion - Philosophy of living principles for younger livers.

II. Content (What?)

**A. The Point of the Pointlessness of Life
(Ideas - chapters 1-6)**

Chapter 1 - Pointlessness Stated, Illustrated, Tested

- ❖ Pointlessness Stated (vv. 1-2).
- ❖ Pointlessness Illustrated: Everything is What has Been (vv. 3-11).
- ❖ Pointlessness Tested (vv. 12-18)

Chapter 2 - The Pointlessness of Finding Satisfaction in Pleasure, Possessions, Labor and Wisdom

- ❖ Pointlessness of finding satisfaction in Pleasure Possessions, Labor, and Wisdom (vv. 1-11).
 1. Laughter (v. 2).
 2. Wine (v. 3)
 3. Works (v. 4)
 4. Wealth (5-6)
 5. Entertainment; Sex (7-8)
 6. Any Pleasure

- ❖ Pointlessness of finding satisfaction in Wisdom (vv. 12-17).
- ❖ Pointlessness of finding satisfaction in Labor (vv. 18-26).

Chapter 3 - The Point to Living in Time (The point of the pointlessness).

- ❖ There is a time for everything so why try (vv. 1-10)?
- ❖ A good way to live out your time (vv. 12-22).

Problem 1 - Eternity	Problem 2 - Time
God sets eternity in our	We Will Die - What we

hearts.	do won't last.
God will judge you.	God will judge what we do.
Eternity Solution	Time Solution
Find eternal contentment in an eternal God.	Find delight in time by doing God's tasks God's way.

Chapter 4 - The pointlessness of finding good in my labor when others are suffering.

- ❖ Finding happiness in this life is difficult because of the oppression we see throughout our lives (vv. 1-3).
- ❖ Finding happiness in this life is difficult because of the chance of labor (vv. 4-16).
 1. Work is broken by rivalry (v. 4).
 2. Work is broken in the lasting value of rewards of work (v. 5-8).
 3. Work is better together (vv. 9-12; broken in isolation).
 4. Work is better in wisdom (vv. 13-16; broken in strength).

Chapter 5a - Don't let a feeling of pointlessness lead you to sin, because God will judge you.

- ❖ God will judge your worship (1-3).
- ❖ God will judge your words (4-7).
- ❖ God will judge officials (8-9).

Chapter 5b - The Pointlessness of Finding Satisfaction in Wealth (10-20)

Chapter 6 - The Pointlessness of Living for Life Alone

B. Principles for Pursuing Purpose in the Pointlessness of Life (Chapters 7-12a Ideas in Action).

Chapter 7 - Principles for Living Better.

- ❖ Living Wisely Choosing Better Things (vv. 1-14).
 1. Reputation is better than comfort (v 1).
 2. Death is better than birth (v. 1).
 3. Funerals are better than parties (v. 2).
 4. Sorrow is better than laughter (v. 2-3).

5. Rebukes are better than songs (v. 5).
 6. End is better than beginning (v. 8).
 7. Now is better than then (v. 10).
 8. Wisdom is better than money (v. 12-13).
 9. Adversity is similar to prosperity (v. 14).
- ❖ Living Wisely in Moderation - Avoid Extremes (vv. 15-29; don't take yourself too seriously).

Chapter 8 - Principles for Living under Authority.

- ❖ Authorities (vv. 1-9).
- ❖ Living under authorities (vv. 10-17).

Chapter 9 - Principles for Living under the Sentence of Death.

- ❖ Both the wicked and righteous face physical death (vv. 1-9).
- ❖ In physical life, enjoy the earthly pursuits God gives you with might and wisdom (vv. 10-18).

Chapter 10 - Principles to Avoid (foolishness).

- ❖ Foolishness is hard to stop or hide (vv. 1-3).
- ❖ Foolishness often ends up in charge (vv. 4-7).

- ❖ Foolishness will reap folly (vv. 8-11; You will reap what you sow; folly is dangerous.)
- ❖ Foolish speech (vv. 12-14):
- ❖ Foolish actions (v. 15; Folly is impractical).
- ❖ Foolishness and kings and kingdoms (vv. 16-20).

Chapter 11 - Principles for Living at Work

- ❖ Diversify pursuits in your work and investments (vv. 1-2).
- ❖ Be prepared for the inevitable problems (vv 2-5).
- ❖ Don't be destroyed by laziness, all the planning in the world won't begin the work (vv. 6-8).

Chapter 11b - 12a - Principles for Living Young

- ❖ Rejoice in every endeavor understanding God is judge (11:9-10).
- ❖ Remember God in youth; He is your delight and not the other pointless pursuits available (12:1-8).

C. The Conclusion.

Chapter 12b - The Conclusion (12:9-14).

- ❖ Remember this sermon (vv. 9-12).
- ❖ Remember God (vv. 13-14).

III. Message of Ecclesiastes

A. Themes

- ❖ God / Man
- ❖ Emptiness / Pointlessness
- ❖ Work / Labor / Pursuit
- ❖ Authority / Oppression
- ❖ Folly / Wisdom
- ❖ Life / Death
- ❖ Time / Eternity

B. Message:

Ecclesiastes:

**In a broken world,
remember that God**

**gives delight in life's pursuits in time
and eternal delight in His Person
for time and eternity.**