

## ***It's a Wicked World Pt 2: Competition or Cooperation (Ecclesiastes 4:4-16)***

### **I. Introduction: Competition is as American as apple pie**

Is competition always good? Economists seem to think so.

### **II. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Evil: Success in labor due to competition and envy (vss. 4-6)**

If it leads to success, is envy and rivalry a good thing or a bad thing?

How do people respond to the *rat race*?

Folded hands: Resignation unto **laziness** (v. 5)

Two cupped hands: **Greed** (v. 6)

One handful with adequate rest: **Contentment** (v. 6)

2 Thessalonians 3:11-12 – a return to Eden's work ethic

### **III. The 4<sup>th</sup> Evil: Individualism and self-sufficiency (vss. 7-16)**

The man with everything who dies alone with nothing

**Cooperation:** Qoheleth's solution to this empty life

*Two are better than one*

*Three* are even better than two!

Applications:

In marriage

In the church

Plurality of leadership

The fellowship of the church body

Individualistic attitude illustrated by an old foolish king

Where is the solution to all of the ills of this wicked world going to be found? Antichrist or Christ? Man or God?

### **IV. Conclusion: The remedy for this wicked world**

A **perfect work** in which the motive is not competition, but love

A **perfect King** whose benevolent reign lasts forever never to be forgotten