

Apart From God All Is Vanity

Franklin Church of Christ
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AM Worship

Introduction:

- A. Let's face it: when looking at life from eternity everything here on earth seems vain.
 - 1. If you don't believe me listen to the wisest man endowed by God: King Solomon.
 - 2. Not only was he given wisdom, but wealth beyond measure.
 - 3. This combination, along with the experiments of life, lead to his conclusion: All is vanity.
Ecc. 1:1-2, 13-17

Let's gather together (the very meaning of Ecclesiastes) and listen to the preacher as he offers the counsel of eternal wisdom.

Discussion:

- I. All Earthly Endeavors Are Vanity
 - A. Wants (folly). **Ecc. 2:1-11**
 - 1. Houses, vineyards (v. 4), gardens and parks (v. 5), ponds for a forest (v. 6), slaves and flocks (v. 7), silver and gold and male/female singers (v. 8). **V. 10**
 - 2. All was vanity and striving after the wind. **V. 11**
 - B. Wisdom. **Ecc. 2:12-16**
 - 1. Wisdom excels folly. **V. 12-14**
 - 2. Even though wisdom excels folly, both end in the same place. **V. 15**
 - C. Work. **Ecc. 2:18-23**
 - 1. Whatever accumulated things you have labored for will be left behind. **V. 18**
 - 2. What trust do you have that it (things) are left to those wise? **V. 19**
 - 3. In the end, such is meaningless. **V. 20-23**
- II. All Endeavors With God Are Profitable
 - A. Those who live to please God are blessed by Him. **Ecc. 2:24-26**
 - 1. He receives wisdom, knowledge, and joy. **V. 26**
 - 2. Conversely, to those who do not please Him, what he has is taken away and given to the one who pleases Him. Cp. **Matt. 25:28-29**
 - B. We do not know the activities God has in store for our future. **Ecc. 11**
 - 1. Therefore, spend your days toiling with a good and noble heart ... and enjoy the fruit of your labors before God. **Ecc. V. 6-8**
 - 2. Children, enjoy your youth. **V. 9-10**
 - C. Remember, always keep God in your life. **Ecc. 12**
 - 1. While enjoying life, do not forget your Creator...otherwise, all your labors are nothing but vanity. **V. 1-8**
 - 2. Here is the simple conclusion (cp. **V. 9-12**): fear God and keeps His commandments. **V. 13-14**

Conclusion:

- A. Brethren, consider your labors (wisdom, wants, and work) that all be done to your satisfaction and ultimately, to the pleasure (will) of God.
- B. Enjoy life in service to God, otherwise all is vanity.