

P.M. OUTLINE
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(v1) "AN EVIL ... IS COMMON AMONG MEN"

(Ecclesiastes 6:1 – 12)

INTRODUCTION - While achievement is not inherently wrong, "under the sun," it does not provide for eternal satisfaction, joy in the Lord, or eternal reward.

Solomon gives us 3 areas which fail in man's search for meaning without God.

1. (v2-6) MATERIALISM: (v2) "given riches ... it is an evil affliction"

Our riches are a resource "under the sun" to "lack nothing for himself" and
(Ecc. 5:18) "enjoy the good of our labor." Also noted in (Ecc. 2:24, 3:12, 8:15)

Review of Solomon's life: (2 Chronicles 1:11-12; 1 Kings 6:38, 7:1, 11:1-10)

Warren Wiersbe, "To enjoy the gifts without the Giver is idolatry, and this can never satisfy the human heart. Enjoyment without God is merely entertainment, and it does not satisfy. But enjoyment with God is enrichment and it brings true joy and satisfaction."

(v3-6) Two illustrations at opposite ends, and Solomon uses exaggeration.

- 1) (v3) "a man begets 100 children and lives many years ... but his soul is not satisfied with goodness, or indeed he has no burial" (v6) "lives 1000 years twice"

Solomon concludes that this blessed man "has no burial." - not good in Judaism.
Also, (v1) "it is an evil affliction" and (v5) "no rest."

- 2) (v3) "... a stillborn child is better than he" (v4) "never sees the light of day" and (v5) "this has more rest than that man."

Point: A "stillborn child" is better off than a man who lives and dies without God.

2. (v7-9) WORK-AHOLIC: (v7) "All the labor of man is for his mouth, and yet the soul is not satisfied."

Yes, enjoy work and all that it provides, but to expect it to be eternally fulfilling "under the sun" is to ask more than it can deliver. The soul goes hungry!

(v8) The "wise and foolish" stand before God in judgment, and God is not going to inquire about your career "under the sun," but "Are you in Christ Jesus?" (Romans 8:1)

(v9) Solomon's version of: "A bird in the hand is worth than 2 in the bush;" so, stop dreaming that you will win the lottery, "the wandering of desire," and enjoy today.

3. (v10-12) DON'T ARGUE WITH THE ALMIGHTY:

(v10) "... he cannot contend with Him who is mightier than he."

Don't argue that life has meaning without God because it increases your "vanity," and it is futile to argue with God. (Isaiah 55:6 – 9)

Solomon asks two questions that address the brevity of life and the unknown future.
(James 4:13 – 16)