

SERIES: Ecclesiastes
“The Vanity of Chasing the Good Life”
Ecclesiastes 6:1-12

At the Heart of the Matter is the Matter of the Heart

- Ecclesiastes does not lack the gospel.
- Ecclesiastes shows us our need for the gospel.
 - We all have the same problem: We are sinners.
 - At the root of our discontentment with life is sin.
 - A discontented soul apart from Christ will never be satisfied.

We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.

-- C.S. Lewis

The God-Shaped Hole: God Has Not Built Life for Anything Apart from Him to Satisfy. (6:1-6)

- The inability to enjoy the good life apart from God is a heavy burden on mankind.
 - No one is exempt from this reality.
 - No one can escape this reality.
- God can give you everything you want and then keep you from enjoying it.
 - Lots of money won't bring ultimate satisfaction.
 - Your bank and your barns can be full while your soul remains empty.
 - A large family won't bring ultimate satisfaction.
 - A long life won't bring ultimate satisfaction.
 - This man lives a frustrated life.
 - This man dies a lonely death.
 - The stillborn child is better off than an old man who dies unsatisfied.
 - Both are a tragedy.
 - Both end in death.
 - No matter how long you live, everyone is headed for the grave.

Our Work Cannot Provide Ultimate Satisfaction. (6:7-9)

- All our work goes to feed our mouths.
 - You may feast today, but you'll be hungry again tomorrow.
 - You will go back to work to feed your mouth to fill your stomach but never be full.
 - Our deepest needs are spiritual, not physical.
- Until you are content with what you have, you'll never be satisfied with more.

Our Words Cannot Change This Reality. (6:10-12)

- Man cannot argue with God about his limitations... just ask Job.
- Man cannot talk enough to unravel life's mysteries... just ask Solomon.
 - What is morally right? “*Who knows what is good for man?*”
 - What is life's purpose? “*... the few days of his vain life, which passes like a shadow?*”
 - What does the future hold? “*Who can tell man what will be after him under the sun?*”
- Only one man can satisfy our souls... just ask Jesus.

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