

Introduction to Ecclesiastes “What Is the Meaning of Life?”

Primary Information for Starters...

- Written by “the _____” – likely Solomon (1:1-2, 12).
- Key question: Is _____ really worth living?
- Key words: man, labor, under the sun, _____, wisdom, evil.

Practical Advice for Study...

- One of the most difficult books in the Old Testament.
- Look for major ideas:
 - God is the _____ Reality, the Creator of all.
 - God’s ways are not always understandable.
 - _____ is the ultimate equalizer.
- Don’t forget – Ecclesiastes is a book without an _____.

Understanding Ecclesiastes...

- We must understand the basic genre.
 - Ecclesiastes is located in the _____ tradition of Israel.
 - Thus, we must exercise great _____ in our interpretation.
- We must understand the overall structure.
 - Two voices are apparent in the text:
 - The voice of the _____.
 - The voice of the _____.
 - The key to understanding Ecclesiastes is found in the _____ and _____.
 - In the beginning, we have the Preacher’s basic message.
 - In the end, we have the narrator’s final assessment.
- We must understand two key ideas:
 - “Vanity”...
 - “Vanity” refers to being meaningless, futility, or _____.
 - “Under the sun”...
 - “Under the sun” denotes life without reference to _____.

Hearing Ecclesiastes...

- In the Old Testament context:
 - The Preacher observes two problems:
 - What we see “under the sun” is _____.
 - What we see “under the sun” is _____.
 - _____ is pointless.
 - _____ is pointless.
 - _____ is pointless.
 - _____ is pointless.
 - The narrator offers two guidelines:
 - _____ God.
 - _____ His commandments.
- In the New Testament context:
 - All of us live under the _____ of God.
 - This curse is by divine _____.
 - The curse alerts us to the problem of _____.
 - And the curse points us to _____.
 - Jesus _____ us from the curse of God.
 - Suddenly, in Christ, there is something _____ “under the sun.”
 - And, in Christ, no longer is anything vanity.

Applying Ecclesiastes...

- Be _____ about empty pursuits.
- Be _____ in the Lord.
- Be _____ for His return.