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All is Vanity

Lesson 15: Christ, Our Wisdom for Living

http://www.clearcreekchapel.org/Ministries/Education_ABE.htm

What is the book saying?

Ecclesiastes is a developed wisdom form of the royal testament.

The royal title dramatizes the quest of the book.

The author comes almost but not quite to the point of calling himself Solomon.

The author uses a double title, ecclesiastical and royal.

The motto

Vanity, or meaninglessness, is the subject of the book.

This meaninglessness is the sum total reading of life.

This meaningless moves from being slight and passing to what is pointless.

This meaningless is set over against “the fear of the Lord”.

The phrase, “under the sun”:

sets the scene for the book.

denotes a world we can observe.

describes the ground level for observing the world.

gives boundaries for man’s creaturely existence.



Two Questions

1. What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun?
2. Is there a thing of which it is said, “See, this is new”?

Solomon:

Poses the question.

Answers the anticipated answer.

The cycle of life

Solomon posits:

Death is the certain foil (vs. 4).

Life is a repetitious pattern that has an endless circular motion to it (vs. 5-7).

There is no satisfaction or completeness in man’s gain (vs. 8,9).

There is nothing new (vs. 9).

There is no posterity (vs. 10,11).

Solomon:

expounds on the cyclical way of thinking in Israel.

begins to expose the meaningless and pointlessness of the cyclical worldview.

will create a hunger for a view of life that can only be found in the covenanting God of Israel.



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New Covenant considerations

Mark 8:34ff

Luke 12:20

John 3:8

James 4:13ff

Romans 8:19,20

Revelation 21:5 and 2 Corinthians 5:17