

*Ecclesiastes 1 – Expectations and Exceptions*  
*Sunday Morning – 6 January 2019*  
*Sermon Outline*

**Introduction** - Ecclesiastes sounds different than many other books / voices in Scripture

- Ecclesiastes is \_\_\_\_\_ with Traditional Wisdom
- Ecclesiastes gives voice to the \_\_\_\_\_ we find in life (Eswine)
- Our lives are filled with question marks

**The Preacher's Poem ~**

The words of the Preacher, the Son of David, the \_\_\_\_\_ in Jerusalem

- What might you expect him to say?????

*Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity (2)*

- *Vanity* = \_\_\_\_\_ (38x's in Ecclesiastes)
- This preachers view is \_\_\_\_\_ through and through
- We are pilgrims / aliens / strangers

He does not say *vanity of vanities* - full stop . . . there is more to it than that (11 more chapters in this book, and the rest of Scripture)

- Interacting with traditional wisdom: **YES (that is true), BUT . . .**

Life Under the \_\_\_\_\_ (29 times)

- Life in a \_\_\_\_\_ cursed world (Subjected to futility . . . groaning)
- The Preacher in the Garden – It is \_\_\_\_\_
- The Preacher under the Sun – It is \_\_\_\_\_

Absurd – like the Myth of Sisyphus

- This should not be!
- The wise and fool . . . the righteous and unrighteous suffer the same end (death)
- Examples from his poem (generations, nature, history *etc.*)

**The Preacher's Plan ~**

A royal quest – not a waste of time: *I applied my heart to seek and to search out by wisdom, all that is done under heaven*

- Under \_\_\_\_\_ - defines the limits and scope of the search

Method – Contraries are best understood by their opposites

- Madness and \_\_\_\_\_ are alternatives and opposites of wisdom
- Dialogical Approach to wisdom – Yes, that is true, BUT . . .

The preacher's statement that life is meaningless under the sun is full of \_\_\_\_\_

There is wisdom in recognizing limitations in the offerings of this life, under the sun

How does this method 'fix' the problem? It \_\_\_\_\_

- Learning to live life with the \_\_\_\_\_ in the midst of the absurdities to be able to live, work, love, serve, laugh, cry, dance, mourn *etc.*

When the preacher will go on to say that *there is nothing better than to eat, drink and be merry*, he is not being a hedonist, he is talking about enjoying the things this world has to offer within the limits of what they can actually provide in this sin cursed world.

- What are you expecting from life, under the sun?

### **The Preacher's Progeny ~**

There is another Preacher, another Son of David, another \_\_\_\_\_ in Jerusalem that enters into the absurdity of human existence under the sun.

- If there is to be an \_\_\_\_\_ from life under the sun; it will not originate under the sun
  - o God so loved the world that he \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus entered the absurdity of it all. Is there anything more absurd than the Son of God being crucified by his own creation?

New Creation / Citizens of \_\_\_\_\_

- Christ is the \_\_\_\_\_ that the world cannot provide (Eswine)
- God WITH us
  - o Raising our children
  - o Engaging in our vocations
  - o Living, loving, losing, dying, dancing, crying, laughing *etc.*
- A sacred joy – even in the midst of the \_\_\_\_\_

In the world you will have trouble / tribulation (yes – that is true), BUT . . . take heart, I have overcome the world!

### **Questions for Family Worship / Follow-Up ~**

What are some things that you find absurd / frustrating / a little crazy about life under the sun?

What are you expecting from this life and your pursuits?

Is there anything that the preacher says that you find frustrating; anything hopeful? Why?

What are some of the joys and sorrows of learning to live life with questions unanswered?