

***Hope in the Face of Despair***  
**Ecclesiastes 3:16-4:3**

Main Point:

Though we live in a world full of reasons for despair, find your hope in the work of Jesus Christ.

1. We live in a world full of atrocities.

2. We live in a world full of death.

3. As a result, we live in a world full of reasons for despair.

4. But, thankfully, we also live in a world full of hope in Jesus Christ.

**Philip Ryken** “This is not merely a frustration, like some of the other problems we read about in Ecclesiastes, but a manifestation of genuine evil.”

**Genesis 3:19** 19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you *are*, And to dust you shall return.” (NKJV)

**Philip Ryken** “The Preacher’s point is that people die, just like the animals. For all the differences between us, we do share this one thing in common: whether man or beast, we will all meet the same fate, at least with regard to our physical bodies.”

**Douglas Sean O’Donnell** “After death, the most beautiful woman and the ugliest hyena return to the same ‘place’ ...”

**Romans 5:12** 12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned— (NKJV)

**Philip Ryken** “The Preacher’s frustration is not simply that injustice is done, but that it goes unpunished.”

**Douglas Sean O’Donnell** “If we will find wickedness even in the highest court and the holiest place, where do we go for justice and holiness? There is only one place to go, and that is above the sun - to the heavens ... We go to God.”

**Acts 17:30-31** 30 Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, 31 because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.” (NKJV)

**Matthew 25:41** 41 “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: (NKJV)

**Philip Ryken** “Our confidence does not lie in a justice system but in the Chief Justice himself, Jesus Christ.”

**John 11:25** 25 ... “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. (NKJV)

**Psalms 49:12, 15** 12 Nevertheless man, *though* in honor, does not remain; He is like the beasts *that* perish ... 15 But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave, For He shall receive me. (NKJV)