

The Cul de Sacs of Life: the Message of Ecclesiastes

Ecclesiastes 1: 1-18

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May 19, 2013

Introduction: Life in Philadelphia

-Cul de Sac is a sophisticated way of saying dead end

-Highways of life are really cul de sacs

-families

-business

-marriage

-What is the point of all of this – life or something like it?

I. The Fallen World

❖ The book of Ecclesiastes actually begins in Genesis

➤ One God existed from all eternity

➤ The knowledge of that one God is imprinted deep inside of us.

➤ God-the God of the Bible created the heavens and the earth

➤ Gen. 1:31 ~ God saw all that He had made and it was VERY good.” (emphasis mine)

➤ Adam and Eve looked at things through God’s eyes

➤ The choices they made were God’s choices

➤ Their perspective on life, things, one another and even how they viewed themselves were from God’s POV

➤ Something cataclysmic occurred

➤ They sought knowledge and wisdom outside of God and became His enemies

➤ The frustrations in our life are put there not because God hates us, but because He loves us

➤ The frustrations are meant to drive us to God

II. The Wise Fool

❖ Ecclesiastes is written by Solomon

➤ Eccl 1: 1~ The words of the Teacher, son of David King in Jerusalem

➤ Eccl 1: 12 ~ I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem

▪ Solomon grew up in what we might call a dysfunctional home

▪ Solomon was given to excess

▪ Solomon had everything that the world could offer and so he said, “Meaningless, Meaningless”

➤ Under the Sun

Take Away and The Beginning of Wisdom

➤ There is good news – God did for us what we could not do for ourselves

❖ The frustrations of your life are to drive you to God

❖ In the weeks to come – we will begin to explore the ultimate questions as Solomon does