

One thing ought to be abundantly clear to anyone reading the Book of Ecclesiastes; Solomon's mind was never idle; we never find him daydreaming or thinking about nothing.

He was always beholding something about life and industry in this fallen world; he beheld and taught many things about the creation, he studied people and their work and toils, and their successes and failures. He wanted to know why things were the way they were; what was profitable and good in them, but also what was vain, futile, and pointless in this life under the sun.

Solomon very often declared the end of man's earthly toil and labor to be vanity and vexation of spirit.

When Solomon referred to some-THING or some-BEHAVIOR or some LABOR as VANITY and VEXATION of spirit, he was saying that it was an empty and futile task, and something that could not truly satisfy the soul.

Laboring or toiling for something that brought no eternal value to the soul was like chasing the wind; or like pursuing something that will vanish away soon after it appears. Things that are vain or vanity are unprofitable because there is nothing substantial or of eternal value in them.

To pursue and chase after profitless and vain things in the world only irritates and frustrates the soul.

But "vanity" is the life that so many in the world choose; they labor and working themselves to death for that which is perishable!

That brings us to the selfish, covetous, workaholic LONER.

Ecclesiastes 4:7-8 READ

"There is one alone, and there is not a second"

This person has no companions or friends; no brothers or sisters; no spouse or children, and yet, they work and labor in this life as if they were supporting a large family, or as if their life depended on it.

It's one thing to be alone as a widow or widower, but it's quite another thing to want to be alone; or to have the attitude that you don't need anyone; and you don't need any companions or friends.

The person that Solomon is portraying to us is a self-centered and selfish loner.

This person gets involved in no one else's life; they help no one, they care for no one, they listen to no one, and they don't share anything with anyone. The LONER that Solomon speaks gets riches, but they are not satisfied with their riches, and yet, they keep working; never stopping long enough to consider: Wait a minute, who am I laboring for? Why am I making myself so unhappy and depriving myself of that which is good?

Genesis 2:18: After God created the man, He said; "It is NOT GOOD that the man should be alone; I will make Him an help (or a helper or companion) meet (fit) for him"

Christian, you CANNOT live the Christian life as a selfish and self-centered loner. **Solomon: Let me know you what is BETTER.**

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12: "Two are BETTER than one"; the Lord Jesus sent His apostles out by TWO:

When I was in the AF, we taught our newest Airmen the "wingman" concept. Always keep close to your wingman. In AF terms "watch his six" meaning, I got your back. The AF Creed states: I will never leave my wingman". NO LONERS! In Biblical language:

Philippians 2:4: "Look not every on his own things, but every man also on the things of others"

In other words, don't just look out for your own interests, but look out for the interests of others. Look out for, and take care of your family; take care of your brothers and sisters in Christ and your friends.

"Love your neighbor as yourself"; & "as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise"

Who has not benefited greatly from, and been made happy by a good friend; or from the encouragement, help, or rebuke of a loving spouse?

Or from your brother or sister in Christ in times when you've been cast down and depressed about something? Or you just needed to talk to someone? You can't be a loner in the body of Christ!

1 Corinthians 12:20-21, Acts 2:44, Hebrews 10:24-25

Consider the great value of a good and faithful friend and brother or sister in Christ:

Proverbs 17:17, 18:24, 27:6, 9, 17

The Lord Jesus had friends! He told his apostles, "Ye are my friends"

"Woe to him that is alone when he falls"