

Ecclesiastes Sermon Series: Week of April 14, 2024

2023-24 Aim Check-in

- Becoming disciples who make disciples, who make disciples.
- Creating a community of faith that meaningfully engages our community of residence.
- 1. Since you last met as a H2H group, have you made any movement towards the aims we've set?
- 2. How might we as a H2H group help support or encourage you towards these aims?

Discussion Questions Set #1

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

- 1. Why do you think books like Ecclesiastes might be less studied in sermons within the modern church in comparison with other books of the Bible?
- 2. Why might it be important for followers of Jesus to explore even difficult or "contested" books of the Bible?
- 3. Discuss the background information (author, date, etc.) presented in sermon. How does this influence your approach to the book? Why might the lower certainty of authorship and date of writing be of importance to note in interpretation?
- 4. What do you hope to get out of this study in the book of Ecclesiastes? What are you looking forward to learning?

Discussion Questions Set #2

In sermon, it was suggested that the compiler of the introduction indicates that the words of Ecclesiastes will speak to a world where our strenuous labour is proven worthless, new discoveries proven neither new nor profound, a life well lived is quickly forgotten and collected wisdom delivers nothing but additional grief.

- 1. Discuss your experience with these suppositions:
 - a. strenuous labour is proven worthless
 - b. new discoveries are neither new nor profound
 - c. a life well lived is quickly forgotten
 - d. collected wisdom delivers nothing but additional grief
- 2. How might the incessantly cyclical nature of creation serve as evidence of its meaninglessness?
- 3. Have you ever wrestled with the tension between biblical words of wisdom and experience to the contrary? How have you resolved this tension?

Discussion Questions Set #3

"I said to myself, "Look, I have increased in wisdom more than anyone who has ruled over Jerusalem before me; I have experienced much of wisdom and knowledge." (Ecclesiastes 1:16)

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." (Proverbs 9:10)

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." (Proverbs 3:5-6)

- 1. Discuss the role of humility in the pursuit of wisdom and understanding. How do the above verses from Proverbs contribute to our understanding of the role of humility in the pursuit of wisdom and understanding?
- 2. How might a lack of humility skew one's pursuit of wisdom and understanding? How might it also impact one's understanding of purpose and meaning in life?
- 3. Why is our starting point in such a pursuit of importance?
- 4. Discuss how a lack of humility and an avoidance to begin in humble submission to God contributes to our culture's current struggles with understating purpose and meaning in life?

