

# Ecclesiastes 6

LESSON 07

## *Sickness and Calamity*

### 1. Ecclesiastes 5:13-17 – A Sore Evil

- a. Life under the sun is an imbalance, an incomplete puzzle.
- b. The sore evil is when riches destroy their owners - 1 Tim 6:9 or...
- c. 5:14-15 – Due to your sickness the riches perish – 1 Tim 6:7
- d. *“in all points”* – Naked you come, naked you go – with nothing – Job 1:21
- e. God giveth and taketh away - they did not know what God gave...except this life.
  - i. It is important we don't charge God foolishly, but trust him instead. Job 1:22
  - ii. We now know some things Job didn't – Job 31:35, Rom 8:32, 1 Cor 2:10-12
  - iii. We are given spiritual wisdom and revelation to understand – Eph 1:17

### 2. Ecclesiastes 5:18-20 – What is Good and Comely

- a. *“it is good”* – the first time this shows up in the book
- b. *“God hath given... and the power...”* – All we have that is good is from God – Ja 1:17
- c. *“for it is his portion”* – your lot, you can do no more in your limited estate
- d. *“the gift of God”* – the best good you have (food, work, joy) is a gift - Neh 8:8-11
- e. 5:20 – Why is it a gift? Having joy will cause you to forget the vanity of your days
- f. Trust not in uncertain riches - 1 Ti 6:17 – Paul adds, lay hold on eternal life. 2Co 4:17

### 3. Ecclesiastes 6:1-6 – A Common Evil

- a. 6:1-2 – A common evil: men who have, but cannot enjoy – Luke 12:19-23
  - i. Old and dying men wish they would have enjoyed life more, how vexing.
  - ii. *“not power”* – due to illness, calamity, taxation, greed, covet, indolence, etc
- b. 6:3-6 – If there is no good in life, what is the point of life? There is nothing left.
  - i. *“untimely birth”* – Better to circumvent a life w/o good (w/o God)
  - ii. Wisdom given to Paul says longsuffering is salvation -2Pe 3:15, Col 1:11
  - iii. *“To live is Christ”* – There is something better, but... for you... Phil 1:21-24

### 4. Ecclesiastes 6:7-10 – A Common ~~Good~~ Vanity

- a. Never satisfied, none different, not more than you see, not more than you are
  - i. These are the thoughts of the wise without God (they are vain Ps 94:11)
- b. 6:7 – There is no end to the man's labour. It is all consumed.
- c. 6:8 – A: Nothing more – same needs, same size stomach, same pleasures.
- d. 6:9 - What you see is what you get. You don't get what you want. False hope.
- e. 6:10 – All vanities named describe man, and he cannot change it. Job 40:2, Ro 9:20
- f. 6:11-12 – In all the vanity, what is better for man? No one can tell him what is, because calamity, evil, death, sickness, can happen at any moment. Life is not “fair”
  - i. There is no common good, none knows the future, only common evil/vanity
  - ii. The obvious missing piece is God and his revelation.

# Vexation of Spirit

10x Solomon declares things to not only be vanity but “vexation of spirit”. Vexation is what troubles, irritates, afflicts, and disturbs. While for the believer who has hope in the Lord this life is only a light affliction, for those who are hopeless it can be a great vexation of spirit. Solomon writes Ecclesiastes as one under the sun disturbed by what he sees. God promises true Israel will have joy, while rebellious Israel will howl for “vexation of spirit” (Isaiah 65:14). Solomon’s life is both a picture of true Israel (Proverbs) and rebellious Israel (Ecclesiastes). He is also a type of Christ and Antichrist.

1. Ecc 1:14 – All the works done under the sun.
2. Ecc 1:17 – Wisdom, madness, and folly.
3. Ecc 2:11 – What can actually be accomplished by man’s hands.
4. Ecc 2:17 – Impending death – the great equalizer.
5. Ecc 2:22 – Sleepless nights, worry.
6. Ecc 2:26 – Consequence of sin.
7. Ecc 4:4 – Consequence of doing right.
8. Ecc 4:6 - Wealth
9. Ecc 4:16 – People
10. Ecc 6:9 – What you see is what you get. You don’t get what you want.