

**ECCLESIASTES CHAPTERS 3-5 – “EVERYTHING HAS ITS TIME; THE GOD-GIVEN TASK; INJUSTICE SEEMS TO PREVAIL; THE VANITY OF SELFISH TOIL; THE VALUE OF A FRIEND; POPULARITY PASSES AWAY; FEAR GOD, KEEP YOUR VOWS; THE VANITY OF GAIN AND HUMOR !”**

**OBSERVATION**

**INTERPRETATION**

**APPLICATION**

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – [ptwente@gmail.com](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com) For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

**EVERYTHING HAS ITS TIME - FATALISM! – Chapter 3:1-15**

*Ecc 3:1 To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven;*  
*Ecc 3:2 A time to be born, And a time to die; A time to plant, And a time to pluck what is planted;*  
*Ecc 3:3 A time to kill, And a time to heal; A time to break down, And a time to build up;*  
*Ecc 3:4 A time to weep, And a time to laugh; A time to mourn, And a time to dance;*  
*Ecc 3:5 A time to cast away stones, And a time to gather stones; A time to embrace, And a time to refrain from embracing;*  
*Ecc 3:6 A time to gain, And a time to lose; A time to keep, And a time to throw away;*

*Ecc 3:7 A time to tear, And a time to sew; A time to keep silence, And a time to speak;*  
*Ecc 3:8 A time to love, And a time to hate; A time of war, And a time of peace.*

**THE GOD-GIVEN TASK;**

*Ecc 3:9 What profit has the worker from that in which he labors?*  
*Ecc 3:10 I have seen the God-given task with which the sons of men are to be occupied.*  
*Ecc 3:11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.*

*Ecc 3:12 I know that nothing is better for them than to rejoice, and to do good in their lives,*

*Ecc 3:13 and also that every man should eat and drink and enjoy the good of all his labor—it is the gift of God.*

*Ecc 3:14 I know that whatever God does, It shall be forever. Nothing can be added to it, And nothing taken from it. God does it, that men should fear before Him.*

**v. 1** Our times have been appointed by God. There are seasons and times for every purpose under heaven. It is always exciting when you come to one of those special times that God has appointed for work in your life.  
**v. 2** To die - And as there is a time to die, so there is a time to rise again, a set time when they that lie in the grave shall be remembered.  
**v. 3** To kill - When men die a violent death. To build up - When he who seemed to be mortally wounded is healed.  
**v. 4** To weep - When men have just occasion for weeping.  
**v. 5** Stones - Which were brought together in order to the building of a wall or house. To embrace - When persons perform all friendly offices one to another.  
**v. 6** To lose - When men lose their estates, either by God's providence, or by their own choice. To cast away - When a man casts away his goods voluntarily, as in a storm, to save his life, or out of love and obedience to God.  
**v. 7** To tear - When men rend their garments, as they did in great and sudden griefs.  
**v. 8** To love - When God stirs up love, or gives occasion for the exercise of it.  
**v. 9** Life seems to move in cycles, there are opportune times, there are apt times, for every purpose under the sun.  
**v. 10** You really don't know what God's full plan is from the beginning to the end.  
**v. 11** Our times are boring and mundane, but in His time, God makes everything beautiful and meaningful. Please keep in mind when you read this book that brother Solomon is in a backslidden state. Previously, he had given his heart and life to the Lord. But presently, because of the influence of his thousand wives and concubines, because of his hoarding of gold that was expressly forbidden in Deuteronomy 17, because of his disobedience to the Lord, he now is in a backslidden state. So he has truth and understanding in the back of his mind, yet he is not living it, walking in it, or experiencing it.  
**v. 12** We are told by Jesus to rejoice in tribulation. We are told to “count it all joy” by Peter when we are going through trials, knowing that God uses these to develop character and to develop his purpose and his plan in our lives. It is good to rejoice and to do good.  
**v. 13** Do you sense the struggle in the soul of Solomon? He says, “I know there is eternity in the hearts of men, and yet why not just enjoy what's right before us—the labor, the food, the drink?”  
**v. 14** The work of God is eternal. The work that you do for God is eternal. Jesus said, “Lay up for yourself treasures in heaven where moth and rust cannot corrupt and thieves cannot break through and steal”. That work that I do for the Lord is eternal in its benefits. I know that whatever God does is forever. It is complete.

Man has tried to be happy without God. It is being tried every day by millions of people. Ecclesiastes shows the absurdity of the attempt by Solomon, the wisest, richest and one of the most powerful of men. He had a wisdom that was God-given. He tried every field of endeavor and pleasure that was known to man. His conclusion was that all is vanity, empty, purposeless. Satisfaction in life can never be attained in the manner. The experiments which Solomon made and his experiences are shown as follows:  
 (Session 1) Science – *Chapter 1:4-11*  
 Wisdom and Philosophy, - *Chapter 1:12-18*  
 Pleasure, - *Chapter 2:1-11*  
 Materialism (Living for the “Now”) – *Chapter 2:12-26*

**(This Session #2)**

**Fatalism – Chapter 3:1-15**

**Egotism - Chapters 3:16-4:16**

**Religion – Chapter 5:1-8**

**Wealth – Chapters 5:9-6:12**

(Session 3)

Morality – *Chapters 7:1-12:12*

The Result of the Experiment/s – *Chapter 12:13-14*

**“under the sun” – 7 times in today's study**  
**Here is one time – “Under the SON!!”**

**“TURN YOUR EYES UPON JESUS”- Michael W. Smith**

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus*

*Look full, in His wonderful face/*

*And the things of earth will grow strangely dim*

*In the light of His glory and grace*

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*Ecc 3:15 That which is has already been, And what is to be has already been; And God requires an account of what is past.*

**INJUSTICE SEEMS TO PREVAIL - EGOTISM! - Chapters 3:16-4:16**

*Ecc 3:16 Moreover I saw under the sun: In the place of judgment, Wickedness was there; And in the place of righteousness, Iniquity was there.*

*Ecc 3:17 I said in my heart, "God shall judge the righteous and the wicked, For there is a time there for every purpose and for every work."*

*Ecc 3:18 I said in my heart, "Concerning the condition of the sons of men, God tests them, that they may see that they themselves are like animals."*

*Ecc 3:19 For what happens to the sons of men also happens to animals; one thing befalls them: as one dies, so dies the other. Surely, they all have one breath; man has no advantage over animals, for all is vanity.*

*Ecc 3:20 All go to one place: all are from the dust, and all return to dust.*

*Ecc 3:21 Who knows the spirit of the sons of men, which goes upward, and the spirit of the animal, which goes down to the earth?*

*Ecc 3:22 So I perceived that nothing is better than that a man should rejoice in his own works, for that is his heritage. For who can bring him to see what will happen after him?*

**v. 15** This is a mind-blowing phrase because it gives us an insight into the reality and nature of eternity. There is no past, no present, no future. That's why God declared His name to be I AM that I AM. Not I WAS, not I WILL BE, but I AM—in the eternal now. Imagine you were able to ride a ray of light. Traveling at 186,000 miles per second, in about 1.25 seconds, you would tip your hat to the man in the moon. In about seven minutes, you would have put nose coat on as you sailed past the sun. Fourteen years later, you would button your overcoat because you would arrive at the uttermost planet, Pluto—and it's cold there. One hundred thousand years later, you would come to the end of our Milky Way Galaxy and 1.5 million years after that, you'd come to the next major galaxy: Andromeda. Then you'd return to earth. Upon your arrival, you would find that the earth had progressed three million years in your absence—even though you would have aged less than a single day due to the fact that as you approach the speed of light, time slows down incredibly. In 1 John 1:5, we are told God is light. What does that mean? I suggest it means that in heaven, everything is in the present “now.” There is no past and no future.

**vs. 16-17** Expressing his frustration, Solomon says, “As I look around, I see corruption politically and iniquity spiritually.”

**v.18** I said - And further I considered concerning their condition in this present world. That God - God suffers these disorders among men, that he might discover men to themselves, and shew what strange creatures they are, and what vile hearts they have. Beasts - That altho' God made them men, yet they have made themselves beasts by their brutish practices, and that, considered only with respect to the present life, they are as vain and miserable creatures as the beasts themselves.

**vs. 19-22** At this point in his frustration and backslidden state, Solomon comes to the conclusion that men are no different than animals. Who really knows if there's life after death? Who has authority to speak on these things? Solomon wonders. The answer is Jesus. No guru can speak, no philosopher can teach, no scientist can state with authority where a man's spirit goes when he dies because Jesus alone came from heaven (John 3:13). You see, gang, when you're talking with an existentialist, a philosopher, an evolutionist, or a scientist, the issue will never be decided on the logic of philosophy or evidence scientifically. While it's intriguing to discuss philosophical viewpoints, in reality it always comes down to one issue: Jesus Christ. Keep bringing the dialogue back to Jesus and say, “Wait a minute. There was a Man who stated with absolute certainty and authority that man is an eternal being, created in the image of God, and will live forever. Therefore, either this Man is the Lord and should be worshiped, He's a lunatic and should be locked up, or He's a liar.” You see, gang, the question is not, “Is there a whale big enough to swallow a man?” or “Can the Genesis account be taken literally?” The question always is, “What do you do with Jesus Christ?”

**Ecc. 3:1-8** - Life under the sun, independent from God, he now looks at fatalism! All is predetermined. We've got to deal with the hand that we've received. Everything has its time! 13 different couplets – opposite – they cancel each other out – so no matter what we do there is no net gain or loss! We're in the middle of a master plan and there's nothing we can do.

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*Ecc 4:1 Then I returned and considered all the oppression that is done under the sun: And look! The tears of the oppressed, But they have no comforter— On the side of their oppressors there is power, But they have no comforter.*

*Ecc 4:2 Therefore I praised the dead who were already dead, More than the living who are still alive.*

*Ecc 4:3 Yet, better than both is he who has never existed, Who has not seen the evil work that is done under the sun.*

**THE VANITY OF SELFISH TOIL;**

*Ecc 4:4 Again, I saw that for all toil and every skillful work a man is envied by his neighbor. This also is vanity and grasping for the wind.*

*Ecc 4:5 The fool folds his hands And consumes his own flesh.*

*Ecc 4:6 Better a handful with quietness Than both hands full, together with toil and grasping for the wind.*

*Ecc 4:7 Then I returned, and I saw vanity under the sun:*

*Ecc 4:8 There is one alone, without companion: He has neither son nor brother. Yet there is no end to all his labors, Nor is his eye satisfied with riches. But he never asks, "For whom do I toil and deprive myself of good?" This also is vanity and a grave misfortune.*

**THE VALUE OF A FRIEND**

*Ecc 4:9 Two are better than one, Because they have a good reward for their labor.*

*Ecc 4:10 For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, For he has no one to help him up.*

*Ecc 4:11 Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; But how can one be warm alone?*

*Ecc 4:12 Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.*

**v. 1** I returned - I considered again. Oppressions - Whether by princes, magistrates, or other potent persons. No comforter - None afforded them pity or help. But they, - No comfort therein.

**v. 2** I praised - I judged them less miserable. For this is certain, that setting aside the future life, which Solomon doth not meddle with in the present debate; and considering the uncertainty, and vanity, and manifold calamities of the present life, a wise man would not account it worth his while to live.

**v. 3** Solomon sees the fallacy of the “might is right” mentality. Observing poor people oppressed without a comforter, he contends it is better to be dead than alive.

**vs. 4-6** Here, Solomon comments on its precursor as he observes the fool fold his hands and drop out. Although the fool correctly assesses the futility of materialism, however his decision to drop out is wrong, for he’ll end up starving and devouring himself

**v. 7** The one who pursues material goals works hard, yet to whom will he leave his wealth when he dies if he has neither son nor brother? What’s the purpose? Solomon wonders.

**v. 8** The more man has, the more he wants. There’s always something new to buy, new to play with, somewhere new to go—but it never brings satisfaction. Most people go through sixty or seventy years of life before they come to this realization and say, “Wait a minute. Why did I do all those things? What was I working for?”

**v. 9** Two - Who live together in any kind of society. Because - Both have great benefit by such conjunction, whereby they support, encourage, and strengthen one another.

**v. 10** They - One of them. Fall - Into any mistake, or sin, or danger.

**vs. 9-12** This passage is often used in wedding ceremonies, the reference being to a rope made of three pieces of hemp wound together. If two pieces were used, under stress and strain they would unravel and split apart—like many marriages today. But if the rope-maker wanted to make a lasting rope, he would wind a third cord in the middle to strengthen the two outer cords. The center cord, of course, is to be the Lord Jesus. And it’s a wonderful thought. But in the context of this passage, Solomon is not so much saying, “Make Jesus the center of your relationship,” as he’s saying, “Two is better than one—and I don’t have two. It’s just me.”

*Ecc 5:2 Do not be rash with your mouth, And let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven, and you on earth; Therefore let your words be few.*  
**Silence** ... Why? Two possible reasons...

**Helpless in Silence When I am quiet, I am genuinely helpless.** I must depend solely upon the Father for defense, for justification. And that’s scary.

**Haunted by Silence** When the radio or television isn’t blaring, when the voices aren’t chattering, when it’s just me and my Lord in silence—suddenly, confronted with my flaws and hypocrisy, I realize I’m not as deep and spiritual as I like to think I am. My thoughts wander easily. My body gets restless physically. When I don’t feel the presence of God, it haunts me. “Oh, no, God has forsaken me,” I cry—*“Who among you fears the LORD? Who obeys the voice of His Servant? Who walks in darkness And has no light? Let him trust in the name of the LORD And rely upon his God.” Isaiah 50:10*

When you go through the dark night of the soul, when you are seeking your Lord, spending time in silence before Him, waiting upon Him, looking to Him—and yet you experience a darkness inside, don’t be afraid. **Don’t run from it.** Instead, **realize God is freeing you from your bondage to your emotions.** We desperately long to feel good so we go to the church where we feel the “Holy Ghost highs” and spend time with people who make us feel special and loved. So our Father says, **“I’m going to take you through a dark night in order that, free from the dominion of your emotions, you’ll walk by faith in the promise that I will never leave you or forsake you.”** The dark night of the soul also delivers me from thinking my walk with the Lord is **dependent upon how I am doing.** I cry. **“Listen,” God answers. “Your walk is based upon who I AM, not upon what you do.”** Truly, sometimes when I’m working hardest for the Lord and seeking Him the most, I find myself feeling farthest from Him. It is in those times the Lord is saying, **“The issue isn’t how much you do. The issue is who I AM.”** These are hard matters, folks, because some of us have experienced, even at regular intervals, the dark night of the soul. **Don’t be afraid of the silence—even though it makes you feel helpless and haunted. Rather, embrace the silence!**

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**POPULARITY PASSES AWAY:**

*Ecc 4:13 Better a poor and wise youth Than an old and foolish king who will be admonished no more.*

*Ecc 4:14 For he comes out of prison to be king, Although he was born poor in his kingdom.*

*Ecc 4:15 I saw all the living who walk under the sun; They were with the second youth who stands in his place.*

*Ecc 4:16 There was no end of all the people over whom he was made king; Yet those who come afterward will not rejoice in him. Surely this also is vanity and grasping for the wind.*

**FEAR GOD, KEEP YOUR VOWS - RELIGION – Chapter 5:1-8**

*Ecc 5:1 Walk prudently when you go to the house of God; and draw near to hear rather than to give the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they do evil.*

*Ecc 5:2 Do not be rash with your mouth, And let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven, and you on earth; Therefore let your words be few.*

*Ecc 5:3 For a dream comes through much activity, And a fool's voice is known by his many words.*

*Ecc 5:4 When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it; For He has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed—*

*Ecc 5:5 Better not to vow than to vow and not pay.*

*Ecc 5:6 Do not let your mouth cause your flesh to sin, nor say before the messenger of God that it was an error. Why should God be angry at your excuse and destroy the work of your hands? them remain.*

*Ecc 5:7 For in the multitude of dreams and many words there is also vanity. But fear God.*

*Ecc 5:8 If you see the oppression of the poor, and the violent perversion of justice and righteousness in a province, do not marvel at the matter; for high official watches over high official, and higher officials are over them.*

**THE VANITY OF GAIN AND HUMOR WEALTH – Chapters 5:9-6:12**

*Ecc 5:9 Moreover the profit of the land is for all; even the king is served from the field.*

*Ecc 5:10 He who loves silver will not be satisfied with silver; Nor he who loves abundance, with increase. This also is vanity.*

**vs. 13-14** Who is Solomon talking about? Himself. As a child, he sought after God. Now he's become the most powerful, potent king in the known world and he knows he's foolish. What a tragedy—to come to the end of life feeling like a sad, sorry old king.

**v. 14** For he - The poor and wise child is often advanced to the highest dignity. Whereas - That old king is deprived of his kingdom.

**vs. 15-16** “I see a new star come on the scene, the one everyone is talking about—just like they used to talk about me. But I know he's going to get old and pass away. What's the point?” Solomon asks.

**v. 1** *Of fools* - Such as wicked men use to offer, who vainly think to please God with their sacrifices without obedience. For - They are not sensible of the great sinfulness of such thoughts.

**v. 2** *Rash* - Speak not without due consideration. To utter - Either in prayer, or vows. For God - Is a God of infinite majesty, holiness, and knowledge. Thy words - Either in prayer or in vowing. (See notes on “Silence” – rt. col. Pg. 2)

**vs. 1-3** In Upon entering the house of god, the tendency of one in a backslidden state is to walk into church and say, “I'm going to do this and I'm going to change that and this is what I promise...”

**v. 4** In fools - In anxious and stressed persons, who, when they are in distress, make liberal vows, and when the danger is past, break them. Lev. 27

**v. 6** your mouth - By any rash vow. Your flesh - Yourself, the word flesh being often put for the whole man. The angel - The priest or ministers of holy things. Such persons are often called angels, or, as this Hebrew word is commonly rendered, messengers. And this title seems to be given to the priest here, because the vow made to God, was paid to the priest as one standing and acting in God's name and stead, and it belonged to him, as God's angel or ambassador, to discharge persons from their vows when there was just occasion.

**vs. 4-7** “Lord, I promise I'll never do that again. Lord, I vow I will give You this, that, and the other.” “Be careful,” says Solomon. “Better not to vow at all than to vow and not keep it.” Thus, even the church experience produces cynicism within the heart of Solomon. Do you have religion or do you have Christ?

**v. 8** Even in his cynicism, Solomon acknowledges the absolute supremacy of God.

**v. 9** Profit - The fruits of the earth. For all - Necessary and beneficial to all men. The wise man, after some interruption, returns to his former subject, the vanity of riches, one evidence whereof he mentions in this verse, that the poor laborer enjoys the fruits of the earth as well as the greatest monarch. Is served - Is supported by the fruits of the field.

**v. 10** Man's attitude toward money is the issue. There is nothing wrong with our profit system itself. The wrong is in the people who are in it. It is the love of money which is wrong. The love of money makes people try to get rich for riches' sake. **1Ti 6:6** *Now godliness with contentment is great gain.*

Why did Solomon embrace the discipline of silence?

**1. Silence Restores Spiritual Passion** people That is why, after ministering to people, Jesus would get away and be quiet. Spiritual passion is restored in quietness. Solitude is an opportunity to close your mouth and let silence restore your passion.

**2. Silence Resolves Contradiction** I look around and see contradictions on all sides of me. I don't get this; I don't understand that; I can't figure out the other. I find confusion. And I used to think I had to solve these problems, figure out what's going on, that I had to determine who's right and who's wrong. But guess what. You don't. Habakkuk, whose name means “wrestler,” struggled with the question of why the heathen prospered while God's people were judged—until he came to this conclusion: ***“But the Lord is in His holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before Him” (Hab. 2:20).***

This is remarkable for me because through it ***I realize I no longer have to have answers for contradictions. I can transcend them by being silent.***

Thus, rather than working out problems, ***I let problems work on me.***

***I let God work on my life rather than trying to figure out why He is doing this or isn't doing that.***

I just say, ***“There's something I need to learn from this contradiction. There's something the Lord wants to work into my life.”*** And I embrace it. I would encourage you today to begin to experiment with this wonderful discipline of silence.

How can it work practically? ***First, try driving to work and back home without the car radio. Try spending twenty minutes in quietness just to see what God might say to your heart.*** Or right before you go to bed, slip out and taste the silence of the night. Go for a walk—if even for only two or three minutes. ***Let the quietness minister to you.*** “Come to Me,” Jesus said, “all you who are weary and heavy laden” (Matthew 11:28). You don't have to be restless. ***You can experience inner tranquility and peace if you'll come to the One who's calling you to a whole new style of life. Give Him a chance. Experience the quietness of holiness.***



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*Ecc 5:11 When goods increase, They increase who eat them; So what profit have the owners Except to see them with their eyes?*  
*Ecc 5:12 The sleep of a laboring man is sweet, Whether he eats little or much; But the abundance of the rich will not permit him to sleep.*  
*Ecc 5:13 There is a severe evil which I have seen under the sun: Riches kept for their owner to his hurt.*  
*Ecc 5:14 But those riches perish through misfortune; When he begets a son, there is nothing in his hand.*  
*Ecc 5:15 As he came from his mother's womb, naked shall he return, To go as he came; And he shall take nothing from his labor Which he may carry away in his hand.*  
*Ecc 5:16 And this also is a severe evil— Just exactly as he came, so shall he go. And what profit has he who has labored for the wind?*  
*Ecc 5:17 All his days he also eats in darkness, And he has much sorrow and sickness and anger.*  
*Ecc 5:18 Here is what I have seen: It is good and fitting for one to eat and drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labor in which he toils under the sun all the days of his life which God gives him; for it is his heritage.*  
*Ecc 5:19 As for every man to whom God has given riches and wealth, and given him power to eat of it, to receive his heritage and rejoice in his labor—this is the gift of God.*  
*Ecc 5:20 For he will not dwell unduly on the days of his life, because God keeps him busy with the joy of his heart.*

**v. 11** Growth just for the sake of growth is no good at all. This is true of a business or even of a Christian organization or church. I have learned it by personal experience.  
**v. 12** The laboring man may not have too much to eat. That keeps him from being a glutton, and he probably sleeps a lot better by not overeating. The rich man has an abundance. In fact, he has gourmet food all the time, and he gets pretty tired of it. He loses his appetite for it. Besides that, he has to worry about his riches, which keeps him awake at night.  
**v. 13** To his hurt - Because they frequently are the occasions both of their present and eternal destruction.  
**v. 14** By some wicked practices, either his own, or of other men. Nothing - In the son's possession after his father's death.  
**v. 15** To go - Into the womb of the earth, the common mother of all mankind. Take nothing - This is another vanity. If his estate be neither lost, nor kept to his hurt, yet when he dies he must leave it behind him, and cannot carry one handful of it into another world.  
**v. 16** The wind - For riches, which are empty and unsatisfying, uncertain and transitory, which no man can hold or stay in its course, all which are the properties of the wind.  
**v. 17** He also eats - He has no comfort in his estate, but even when he eats, he does it with anxiety and discontent. And wrath - When he falls sick, and presages his death, he is filled with rage, because he is cut off before he has accomplished his designs, and because he must leave that wealth and world in which all his hopes and happiness lie.  
**v. 18** Good - Good or comfortable to a man's self, and comely or amiable in the eye of other men. His portion - Of worldly goods; he hath a better portion in heaven. This liberty is given him by God, and this is the best advantage, as to this life, which he can make of them.  
**v. 19** To eat of it - To use what God hath given him.  
**v. 20** will not dwell unduly - So as to disquiet himself. The days - The troubles; days being put here for evil, or, sad days. God keeps him busy - His desires, in giving him solid joy and comfort

Ecc. 4:13-16 - Popularity Passes Away so Quickly:  
 It's outrageous to see what people will go through to get on a TV show. A man could stop a ceiling fan with his tongue!  
 Poor man becomes king and everyone loves him – but a generation will follow him and they will long for his departure and then will forget him in a generation or two.  
 People are so fickle! David/Saul! Apostle Paul – “nobody stood with me”!!  
 Popularity comes and goes! More fickle than ever! The folly of living for the applause of life!  
**But the Lord will never, ever leave us or forsake us!**  
  
 Ecc. 5:1 - The whole verse might be literally translated thusly: -  
 “Guard your steps as you are going to the house of God; and approach to listen, and not to give the sacrifice of fools, for none of them have knowledge about doing evil.” “They offer gifts for their sins, and do not turn from their evil works; for they know not (they distinguish not) between good and evil.” See the Chaldee. (Clarke)  
  
 Ecc. 5:8 - Government always thinks the solution is more government! Layer upon layer! Squeezing out all from the people. We need to reach out to God and emphasize faith in God, but we’re doing exactly the opposite. Nurture faith, not to ridicule it! So we have Government continue to grow and grow to bankrupt themselves. Removing God, causes us to live under the sun. then you eventually find you spend all the money on government, having so many laws and so many trying to force an unruly people to keep the laws.  
 The greatest thing a government can do is to point us to God, faith in God and dependence upon God!

**ECCLESIASTES CHAPTERS 3-5 – “EVERYTHING HAS ITS TIME; THE GOD-GIVEN TASK; INJUSTICE SEEMS TO PREVAIL;  
THE VANITY OF SELFISH TOIL; THE VALUE OF A FRIEND; POPULARITY PASSES AWAY; FEAR GOD, KEEP YOUR VOWS;  
THE VANITY OF GAIN AND HUMOR !”**

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room,  
CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – [ptwente@gmail.com](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com) For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/>  
Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.