

"The Merest of Breaths"

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

July 16, 2023

I. Introduction to Ecclesiastes (Ecc. 1:1-2)

- A. Written by King Solomon
- B. Two Key Terms:
 - 1. "Under the Sun" – this fallen realm, with its frustrations and limited perspective.
 - 2. "Vanity" – the condition of everything being fleeting and unable to have a lasting impact (like a breath)

II. Vanity Demonstrated (Ecc. 1:3-11)

- A. Never-ending generation repetition and replacement (vs. 3-4).
- B. Events in creation are fleeting with no real impact (vs. 6-7).
- C. The full satisfaction of our senses never comes (v. 8).
- D. The cycle repeats because everything (everyone!) is forgotten (vs. 9-11).

Psalm 144:4 - Man is like a breath; his days are like a passing shadow.

Psalm 103:15-16 - ¹⁵As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; ¹⁶for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.

III. Vanity Conquered

- A. Only the God-Man overcame the transience and emptiness of this realm.
 - 1. His accomplishments are the very definition of impactful.
 - 2. His life endures forever.

Ecclesiastes 3:14 - I know that everything God does will remain forever; there is nothing to add to it and there is nothing to take from it...

- B. The Conqueror of Vanity lives now in us!

Galatians 2:20 - "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me."

- C. Through Him, the works of believers will truly endure, as will they themselves!

Matthew 10:42 - "And whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you, he shall not lose his reward."

Revelation 14:13 - And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"

Colossians 3:23-24 - ²³ Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.