

“You Can’t Escape It...Yet”
Ecclesiastes 1:12-18; 2:1-11, 17; 3:18-19
July 23, 2023

⇒ **Review from last week...**

- “Vanity” – the condition of being fleeting and unable to have a lasting impact (like a breath)
- “All is vanity,” says Solomon.

I. Where did the vanity come from?

- A. The Lord instilled vanity into life “under the sun”. (Ecc. 1:12-15)
- B. Vanity is part of God’s judgment for mankind’s sin.
- C. There are two opposing responses to the vanity of this life: *Rebellious Escapism* and *Humble Acceptance*.

II. Response 1 – Rebellious Escapism

- A. This is seen in Solomon’s own experience. (Ecc. 1:16-2:8)
- B. Solomon tried to escape the vanity of life through the following:
 - 1. The acquisition of enough wisdom and knowledge to “crack the code”.
 - 2. Constant pleasure.
 - 3. Creating the perfect environment for himself.
 - 4. Wealth and the daily luxuries it affords.
 - 5. Practically limitless sexual exploits.
- C. None of those pursuits chased the vanity away. (Ecc. 2:9-11). →
- D. Solomon was left only with pure despair. (Ecc. 2:17)
- E. The despair that followed his rebellious escapism may have been the catalyst that led to his fall into idolatry.

F. We should honestly admit our own attempts to escape life's vanity.

III. Response 2 – Humble Acceptance

A. There is a merciful message from God in the vanity of this life (Ecc. 3:18-19):

1. We're no different than the any other creature in this world.
2. In this life, we will always be subject to the vanity that's here.
3. We cannot escape the vanity of this world by own efforts or pursuits because we, along with our effort and pursuits, are *all* part of the vanity.

B. Only God can deliver us from the vanity of this life.

1. Receiving salvation through Christ by faith brings with it the promise of future deliverance from the vanity.
2. While we're still in this life, we must constantly remind ourselves to keep our eyes fixed on Christ.
3. We must pray for strength to not see the things of this world, even the good things, as a means to escape life's current vanity.
4. The only way out is through.