



SOLOMON'S ECCLESIASTES

The book of Ecclesiastes written by King Solomon is a best described by Matthew Henry:

1-3 Much is to be learned by comparing one part of Scripture with another. We here behold Solomon returning from the broken and empty cisterns of the world, to the Fountain of living water; recording his own folly and shame, the bitterness of his disappointment, and the lessons he had learned. Those that have taken warning to turn and live, should warn others not to go on and die. He does not merely say all things are vain, but that they are vanity. **VANITY OF VANITIES, ALL IS VANITY.** This is the text of the preacher's sermon, of which in this book he never loses sight. If this world, in its present state, were all, it would not be worth living for; and the wealth and pleasure of this world, if we had ever so much, are not enough to make us happy. What profit has a man of all his labour? All he gets by it will not supply the wants of the soul, nor satisfy its desires; will not atone for the sins of the soul, nor hinder the loss of it: what profit will the wealth of the world be to the soul in death, in judgment, or in the everlasting state?¹

When you read Ecclesiastes you are reading the results of a life of extreme wealth that has lead to zilch. You can compare Ecclesiastes to all of the horror stories that appear in the news about the actors and actresses in Hollywood who have nothing to live for. Solomon with all of his riches and wealth realized that it is nothing compared to

the love of the Lord. This is why we read the following:

Ecclesiastes 1:1-18

- 1 The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.
- 2 Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity.
- 3 What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun?
- 4 One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: but the earth abideth for ever.
- 5 The sun also ariseth, and the sun goeth down, and hasteth to his place where he arose.
- 6 The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits.
- 7 All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again.
- 8 All things are full of labour; man cannot utter it: the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing.
- 9 The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.
- 10 Is there any thing whereof it may be said, See, this is new? it hath been already of old time, which was before us.
- 11 There is no remembrance of former things; neither shall there be any remembrance of things that are to come with those that shall come after.
- 12 I the Preacher was king over Israel in Jerusalem.

1 Ecclesiastes 1:1-3, Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary on the Whole Bible, 28th Printing Moody Press, [The Bible Foundation <http://www.bf.org >](http://www.bf.org).

SOLOMON'S ECCLESIASTES

13 And I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done under heaven: this sore travail hath God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith.

14 I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit.

15 That which is crooked cannot be made straight: and that which is wanting cannot be numbered.

16 I communed with mine own heart, saying, Lo, I am come to great estate, and have gotten more wisdom than all they that have been before me in Jerusalem: yea, my heart had great experience of wisdom and knowledge.

17 And I gave my heart to know wisdom, and to know madness and folly: I perceived that this also is vexation of spirit.

18 For in much wisdom is much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow.

With all of Solomon's knowledge, wealth, and everything else he acquired, everything is vanity. We read about the rich and famous who have gained the world but are depressed and are going through psychiatric treatment for their depression. The world wants to tell you that fame and fortune will bring you happiness. Those who are undergoing treatment for depression do not seem very happy. Solomon's book, Ecclesiastes does not portray a person who is very happy with his life.

Those who have gained the whole world and have lost their souls have actually lost everything.

Matthew 16:26-28

26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

27 For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

28 Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.

The world is continually telling you that the more wealth, money, and power you have the happier you will be. This is nothing but a lie of Satan! Solomon fell for this lie just as many today are falling for this same lie. The world wants you to believe that the rich and glamorous are truly content and happy.

When Solomon wrote Ecclesiastes he realized that all of the world's wisdom and wealth was vanity and vexation of spirit. Solomon realized that he was truly happy when he was following the Lord and not following the ways of the world. When Solomon was young and loved the Lord with his whole heart, he was really happy and joyful. The world cannot give you the joy that you are seeking. The world cannot give you the peace that you need. The only thing that the world will give you is vexation of spirit. Is it any wonder that those in the movie industry are so distraught and depressed? When you gain the whole world and lose your soul, your life becomes an empty, hollow shell.

Solomon realized that all of his wives, servants, gold, jewels, palaces, wisdom, and everything else that he gained were nothing compared to losing the love and joy of the Lord. When you lose the Holy Ghost, you have lost everything! There are many who once knew the Lord but have turned their back on the Lord. Some of them spend their last days seeking the joy they once knew and rejected.

Satan has been telling the world that knowledge and wealth equals joy and happiness from the very beginning.

Genesis 3:1-24

1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst

SOLOMON'S ECCLESIASTES

of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

8 And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

9 And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

10 And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

11 And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

12 And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

13 And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

14 And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his

heel.

16 Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

17 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

20 And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.

21 Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

22 And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:

23 Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.

24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

See how Satan tempted Eve with knowledge and wealth? He did the same to Solomon, and is doing the same to you and me continually. The end result of the world's knowledge and wealth is always a letdown. There is little joy and happiness when you gain the world and lose your soul. Adam and Eve were evicted from paradise. Solomon lost his communion with the Lord which he once had. When you fall to Satan's temptation you will lose likewise. We all have seen others who have fallen from grace.

SOLOMON'S ECCLESIASTES

Romans 1:18-32

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

This is the sorrow that gaining the whole world brings.

The Full Gospel Church

3014 E Street
Philadelphia, PA 19134
Church Office Phone: (215) 634-3637
Published by: Rev. LeRoy D. Cressy (215) 535-4037

Services:

Sunday School 11:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship 12:00 Noon
Sunday Evening 6:30 PM
Wednesday Evening 7:30 PM

Contact Information:

- **E-Mail:** leroy@lrcressy.com
- **U.S. Mail:**
Rev. LeRoy D. Cressy
P.O. Box 1731
Philadelphia, Pa 19105-1731
- **Web Site:** <http://lrcressy.com>