



Ecclesiastes

Life Under the Sun

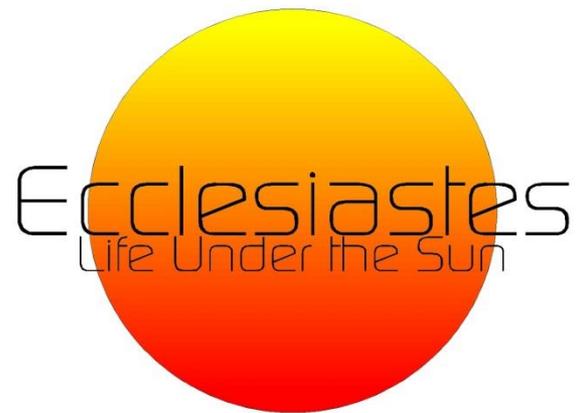
29 times the phrase is used

Ecclesiastes

- “The whole book is an argument that it is God who gives us the ability to enjoy life, and that apart from Him life is empty and meaningless. All of life is therefore summed up in the responsibility to seek a relationship with God and to live life His way...The mistake men make about life is expecting more from it than there is.”
 - Bob Waldron, *Give Us A King*, p. 197.

Ecclesiastes

- That's why you see different forms of the word vanity throughout the book (38 times).
- So let's take a closer look at the vanity of life "under the sun"—some of the things which make it so frustrating and discouraging.
- Keep in mind, though, that we're looking at life apart from God, apart from eternity.



- This world has a lot of problems that just can't be fixed.
 - 1:14–15



Ecclesiastes
Life Under the Sun

- No matter how much wisdom we obtain, we will still end up like the fool—dead and forgotten.
 - 2:13–16



- No matter how much wealth we obtain, we can't take it with us, and our heirs may squander every bit of it.
 - 2:18–20



Ecclesiastes
Life Under the Sun

- There is a great deal of injustice in the world.
 - 3:16; 4:1; 10:5–7



Ecclesiastes
Life Under the Sun

- Those who work hard and skillfully, instead of being appreciated, are often envied.

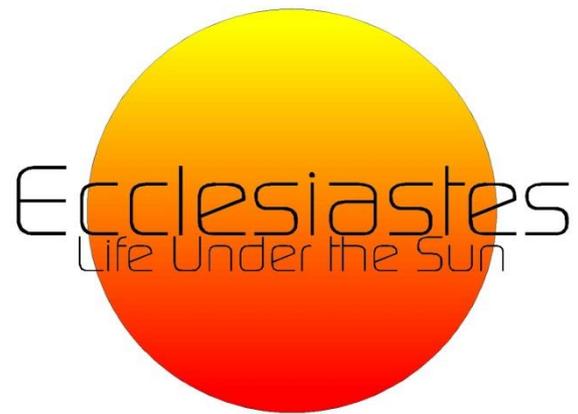
– 4:4



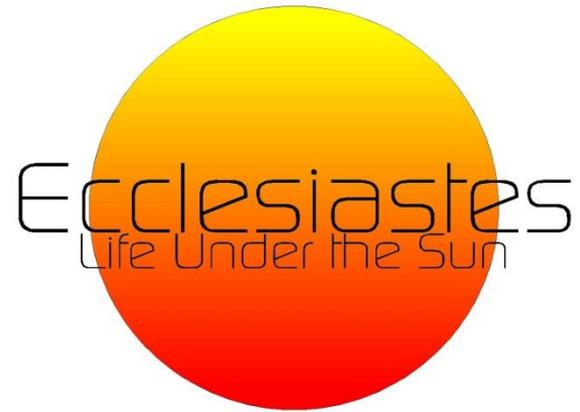
Ecclesiastes

Life Under the Sun

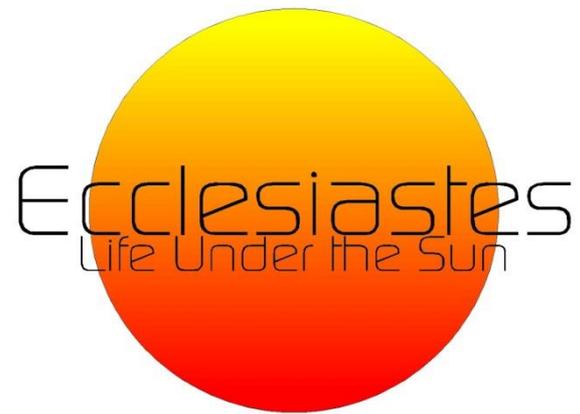
- The wicked, at least in many cases, seem to be doing better than the righteous.
 - 7:15; 8:14



- Outcomes are often very unpredictable. Life doesn't always turn out the way we planned.
 - 9:11–12



- **Wisdom is not always appreciated.**
 - 9:13–18



- Old age is often very difficult to bear.
 - 12:1–5

Ecclesiastes

- In last Sunday morning's lesson, we looked at life apart from God, life without an eternal perspective.
- We discussed in detail the frustrations of “life under the sun.”
- Let's look now at how we should really view life— from God's vantage point, from an eternal perspective.
- In other words, a look at life from “above the sun.”



- Keep the judgment and eternity in view.
 - 12:13–14; 3:16–17; 7:15; 8:12–13; 11:9



- Enjoy every good thing from the hand of God.
 - 2:24–26; 5:18–20; 9:7–10.



- Enjoy the good and learn from the bad.
 - 1:15; 7:13–14; 7:1–4; 3:1–11.



- Outcomes are not guaranteed, but diligent work is still the best course.
 - 4:4–5; 5:12; 9:10.



- Realize that MODERATE success may be best.
 - 4:4-6; 5:10-12.



- Value family relationships, friends, brethren.
 - 4:9-12.



- Do good to others.
– 11:1-6.



- Be patient, not angry.
 - 11:8–10