

WHAT DOES MAN GAIN BY ALL THE TOIL?

Ecclesiastes 1:3-11

Oakridge Community Church

Questions for Consideration and Discussion

Introduction:

1. Ecclesiastes 1:2
2. Ecclesiastes 12:1-7
3. Ecclesiastes 1:3

- I. **LIFE IS A VAPOR** 1:4
 - A. Emphatically
 - B. Ironically – cf. 3:20
- II. **NATURE IS A MONOTONOUS CYCLE** 1:5-7
 - A. Demonstrated by the sun – 5
 - B. Demonstrated by the wind - 6
 - C. Demonstrated by the waters - 7
- III. **NOTHING IS TRULY NEW** 1:8-10
 - A. No satisfaction - 8
 - B. No hope for satisfaction – 9-10
- IV. **EVERYTHING IS EVENTUALLY FORGOTTEN** 1:11
 - A. The desire to be remembered
 - B. The reality that little is remembered

Conclusion

1. Human responses
 - a. End it
 - b. Spread it
 - c. Endure it
 - d. Live for it
2. Look above the sun!
 - a. 2 Peter 3:10, 13
 - b. Isaiah 65:17; 66:22
 - c. Revelation 21:5, 1; 22:5, 3
 - d. Hebrews 10:19-20; 2 Cor. 5:17; John 11:25-26; 10:9-10
3. 1 Corinthians 15:58

What Does Man Gain by All the Toil?

Ecclesiastes 1:3-11

1. Do you at times say to yourself, “What is life really all about? What’s the real meaning and purpose of it all?” How do you deal with such questions when they come to mind?
2. Why is it important to recognize and ponder the fact that life is a vapor? What is the inevitable result of considering this reality while viewing life only under the sun?
3. How does Ecclesiastes use the monotony of nature to illustrate the purposelessness and meaninglessness of life when viewed only under the sun?
4. Why are people so easily attracted to what seems new? Why do “new” things so quickly lose their appeal? What does this loss of appeal reveal about those things? What does it reveal about people?
5. Can you relate to the desire to be remembered? In what ways? How does the fact that you will eventually be forgotten impact you?
6. In contrast to life viewed under the sun, 1 Corinthians 15:58 tells us our labor does not need to be in vain. What is the key? How does that meaningfulness and purposefulness of life come about?