

NO ONE TO COMFORT THEM
Ecclesiastes 4:1-3

Oakridge Community Church
Questions for Consideration and Discussion

Introduction:

No One to Comfort Them
Ecclesiastes 4:1-3

1. The reality of oppression
2. The longevity of oppression – Genesis 3:16b, 4:8b
3. The wide range of oppression
 - a. Leviticus 19:13
 - b. Ezekiel 22:7b, 29
 - c. Hosea 12:7
 - d. Jeremiah 50:33

1. What kinds of oppression do you observe and experience in this world today? How should you respond to the oppression you see around you?
2. What situations of oppression frustrate you the most? How should we respond to the reality that no one under the sun is able to stop oppression completely?
3. How do you respond to the fact that God continues to allow oppression to take place? How is God's mercy demonstrated by allowing suffering and oppression to continue?
4. What is God's purpose in allowing oppression to be so prevalent in our world today? Why is it wrong to blame God for the oppression in this world? In what ways is God's concern for the oppressed revealed?
5. How is God dealing with oppression in the world now? How will God ultimately deal with suffering and oppression?
6. How did Christ experience the suffering and oppression of the world? Why did He experience this suffering? How does this show that man was not ultimately "made to mourn"? What does Christ's suffering for us reveal concerning where we can find ultimate meaning, purpose and lasting fulfillment?

- I. **THE PREACHER'S OBSERVATION OF OPPRESSION** 4:1
 - A. Its prevalence under the sun
 - B. Its invincibility under the sun
- II. **THE PREACHER'S REACTION TO OPPRESSION**
 - A. Applauding the dead – 4:2
 - B. Applauding the not-yet-existing even more – 4:3
- III. **THE BOTTOM-LINE REASON FOR OPPRESSION**
 - A. Genesis 1:31
 - B. Romans 5:12
 - C. Psalm 103:6; 146:7
- IV. **THE UNDER-THE-SUN CONTINUANCE OF OPPRESSION**
 - A. Filling up the iniquity of man
 - B. Showing man's desperate need to fear God
 1. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14
 2. 1 John 3:2b
 3. Revelation 21:3-4