

sermon notes

September 19, 2021 | Pastor Tony Caffey, Harvest Decatur
Vanity Fair | "The Circle of Life" | Ecclesiastes 1:3-11

Life "Under the Sun":

- 1) _____ is a zero-sum gain for us (1:3-4)
- 2) _____ marches on without us (1:5-7)
- 3) _____ repeats itself and forgets us (1:8-11)

Life "in the SON":

- 1) Christ redeems our _____ and our _____
- 2) Christ makes all things _____
- 3) Christ never _____ us or _____ us

Questions for further application of God's Word:

GO DEEPER

Read Ecclesiastes 1:1-11. What aspects of nature does Solomon observe in this passage? What does he say about the sun? About wind? About water? What would we conclude about nature (i.e. this world "under the sun") if God didn't exist?

What does Solomon mean when he says, "there is nothing new under the sun" (1:9)? Don't we have new things in our world? New technologies? New advancements? New people being born every day? What stays the same in our world? What never changes, or more precisely, won't change until Christ returns?

GET PERSONAL

As best you can, answer Solomon's question in Ecclesiastes 1:3? How does Solomon describe work in this book (see Ecc 2:10-11; 3:12-13; 3:22; 5:18-20)? How is this similar and dissimilar from the book of Proverbs (see Prov 10:4; 12:11; 14:23; 16:3; 18:9; 24:30-34)?

Is human work toilsome? Is it cursed? Why would Solomon describe work as vanity and also profitless? What makes our work meaningful and profitable? Describe your work and your attitude when you go to work. How does Christ change our attitude about work (see Col 1:28-29; 3:23-24)?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Consider what you would want people to say at your funeral. What kind of legacy do you want to leave for your children, grandchildren, etc.? Should Solomon's words in Ecclesiastes 1 keep us from working to leave a legacy for our children? Why or why not?

Memorize Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 and keep that in mind throughout our series as we work through each chapter of this book. How does that final passage give a proper perspective on everything else in this book? How does it help you understand Ecclesiastes 1:1-11?

ADVANCED QUESTION

Read Psalm 19. Compare and contrast what nature communicates to us in Psalm 19 versus what it communicates in Ecclesiastes 1:4-8. What significant lessons can we draw from nature?