

ECCLESIASTES 1; June 23; Vanity of Human Wisdom

ANALYSIS:

1. What are four things you know about the Preacher? _____
2. What are two of the Preacher's favorite words in this book that describe life in this world and start with the letter "v"? _____
3. What are four things that Solomon uses as examples of natural cycles in this world? _____
4. Which verse tells us there is nothing new that is being seen or experienced today that was not known in the Preacher's day? _____
5. Isn't wisdom and knowledge very good things. So why is verse 18 true? _____

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

Solomon, the Preacher, was the wisest man, apart from the Lord Jesus Christ, who ever lived. The LORD God gave him understanding and knowledge about this world and the affairs of it that no other man ever possessed. Solomon further had the means and the opportunity to experience every form of entertainment, pleasure and accomplishment this world has to offer. And after he had tried it all, what was his conclusion about the whole of life in this world? He tells us in verse two: "Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity." Solomon found that life focused on this world is empty, worthless, and hopeless. Life lived apart from God is pure vanity and vexation of spirit. Do you believe the Preacher today?

What will you do today that demonstrates that you realize that life lived only for this world is vanity and vexation of spirit? Will you reject the humanism, paganism, and carnal Christianity of this age? Will you flee the lusts and sins of this depraved society? Will you seek the LORD's face in prayer and spend time reading and meditating in his word. Will you love and serve the saints of God. Will you live a holy and righteous life before the world? May the Lord Jesus bless us to do so, and by doing so, realize that a life lived for Christ in this world is a life of joy, hope, and value!

HELP:

1. The Preacher's name was Solomon; the son of David, king in Jerusalem, he wrote Ecclesiastes.
2. "Vanity" and "Vexation" (vs 2,14,17).
3. Human generations, the sun, the wind, and the rivers (vs 4-7).
4. No, there is nothing new under the sun (v 9).
5. The wisdom and knowledge of God and His truth are good things to be pursued. However, the more you focus on these attributes in relation to this life only, the more you will understand and be grieved by the brevity, vanity, and futility of this life (v 18).