



- Aaron Bott and family- Soldier in Kuwait (Joe Forti's friend)
- Ian's unsaved family
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**Announcements:**

- February 16-17- NBA Allstar Weekend Hangout
- July 19-21- Kenosha Missions Trip Signup



**Order of Service for tonight:**

- **Opening Game:** New Year's Trivia
- **Announcements:**
- **Opener:** Andy
- **Songs:**
  - I Will Glory in My Redeemer (page 66)
  - Not I but Christ (page 88)
- **Prayer:**
- **Message:** Pastor Andy



**Lesson 1**  
Life Under the Sun  
*Ecclesiastes 1-12 Summary*

**When is life worth living? What makes life worth living?** After all, life is full of difficulty. The more we things we get (wealth, relationships, intelligence, wisdom, pleasure, etc.), the more we realize how quickly those pleasures can be lost. The harder we work, the more we come to understand that our efforts often lead to little gains. The longer we live, the more we witness injustice. Evil people get away with heartless deeds, while good people get taken advantage of, hurt, and damaged throughout their lives. In the end, everyone dies, and all this stuff doesn't matter anyways.

This is the reality presented in the book of Ecclesiastes: everything is empty and meaningless. Does this really sound like something the Bible would teach? Isn't that too fatalistic? Is this perspective even healthy? Wouldn't the Bible offer more hope than that? When is life worth living? What makes life worth living? Thankfully, this book does provide hopeful, real answers. But it takes an honest journey through these pages to learn that wisdom.

**Greet the Author of Ecclesiastes.**

- The author mysteriously describes himself.
  - He is "the Teacher/Preacher."
  - He assembles an audience to give them wisdom.
- The Preacher was clearly Solomon.
  - He was the son of David (Ecc. 1:1).
  - He was the king in Jerusalem (Ecc. 1:1, 12).
  - He had more wisdom than anyone else (Ecc. 1:16; cf. 1 Kings 3:9-14).
  - He oversaw a time of great wealth and prosperity (Ecc. 2:9).
  - He taught the people knowledge and wrote many proverbs (Ecc. 12:9).
- Ecclesiastes comes from the life of Solomon.
  - Song of Solomon was written in his youth, when he was optimistic about life.
  - Proverbs was written in the prime of his life, when he was living according to wisdom.
  - Ecclesiastes was written in the end of his life, when he was regretful for indulging in his desires, wealth, and pleasures.



Other Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

### Grapple with the Tone of Ecclesiastes

- Ecclesiastes seems incredibly pessimistic (Ecc. 3:1-11).
- Ecclesiastes seems shockingly hedonistic (Ecc. 8:15).
- Ecclesiastes seems sadly fatalistic (Ecc. 2:12-17).
- Ecclesiastes is wisely realistic.

Other Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

### Grasp the Message of Ecclesiastes.

- Everything in life is vanity.
  - Life is empty because everything is fleeting (James 4:14).
  - Life is empty because everything is meaningless (Ecc. 5:7).
  - Life is empty because many things are incomprehensible (Ecc. 8:16-17).
- There is nothing new under the sun (39 uses in the book).
- Striving after wind (Ecc. 1:6, 5:16, 11:4)
- Death is the great equalizer (Ecc. 6:3-6; 7:1; 8:6-8).
- Enjoy life for what it is (Ecc. 8:15).
- Fear and obey God above all (Ecc. 12:13).

Other Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

### Glance at the Structure of Ecclesiastes.

- Let's explore life's inconsistencies (Ecc. 1-8).
- Let's explain life's inconsistencies (Ecc. 9-12).

### Glean from the Wisdom of Ecclesiastes.

- Wrestle with the fleeting joys of life and the harsh realities of death.
- Have a proper view of God's gifts to you (Ecc. 3:12-15).
- Recognize your own mortality.



- Live your life in the fear of God.
- Heed these warning before you make the same mistakes (Ecc. 12:1).
- Remember that death has no power over Christians; the Gospel provides great hope for us.

Other Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

### Prayer

**Scripture:** <sup>20</sup> According to my earnest expectation and *my* hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but *that* with all boldness, as always, *so* now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether *it be* by life, or by death. <sup>21</sup> For to me to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain.  
Philippians 1:20-21

### College Student of the Night: Addison Moritz

- Senior Biomedical Engineering student at University of Cincinnati
- Prayer Requests:
  - Living in Bloomington now
  - His co-op just began and runs through August

### Single Focus/Cross Impact Requests:

- Cross Impact IUPUI, Purdue, Ball State, and UIndy
- Potential at IU, Marion, and Butler
- Single Focus (Connect, Grow, Serve)
- Sunday Soul-Winning Efforts
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### Specific Requests:

- Jack Elms, Kendall Elms, Jesiah Achenbach in military training/service
- Joseph LaPointe's back and spirit
- Trevor's need for community at Indiana State
- Jessica's Unsaved friend in Mormonism
- Sarah's family's salvation