

Book:	Ecclesiastes
Series:	Two Ways to Live: Under the Sun or In the Fear of God
Lesson 1:	An Overview
Text:	Overview
Date:	Sunday, January 13, 2013
Next Lesson:	Ecclesiastes 1:1-11; 2:1-11

INTRODUCTION

In a nutshell, the message of Ecclesiastes is, “Vanity of vanities; all is vanity.” Indeed, in our own personal experience during the daily grind of life, those same words often ring with truthfulness. Although believers ought to be the most contented people on earth (Hebrews 13:5-6), we often find ourselves unsatisfied, searching for something we do not know.

Throughout his intriguing book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon exhorts us to focus once again on the God who has “set [eternity] in [our] heart” (Ecclesiastes 3:11). Only the eternal God can satisfy the eternal longing that has been programmed into the very fiber of our being. Therefore, while he does indeed encourage us—almost surprisingly—to “eat, drink, and be merry” (Ecclesiastes 8:15), he preaches that the only context in which that will indeed be enjoyment is in the fear of God (Ecclesiastes 12:13). So, as we study this book together, let’s pray that God will transform our focus and redirect our hopes to the only One who can truly fulfill them (cf. John 10:10).

AUTHOR

PURPOSE

1. Life “under the _____”

Application:

2. Life “in the _____ of God”

Application:

FULFILLMENT

CONCLUSION

So, is life really worth living? Well, it depends on how you live it. There are only two ways to live—life “under the sun” and life “in the fear of God.” If God is your orientation, then we “know that [our] labour is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 15:57).