

Personal Application – Ecclesiastes Study 1 (1:1-11)

1. Have you ever felt caught in the treadmill of life, or given yourself to a passing fad or cause?
2. Is there a struggle in your life that has seemed futile or meaningless?
3. Have you ever been able to relate to the Teacher's question: "What have I gained from all my work/labor?"
4. What do you find yourself doing to make life meaningful "under the sun"?
5. Do you want to challenge the Teacher's thesis? Is everything meaningless? What would you say?

Journal your thoughts on one or more of the above questions.

Personal Application – Ecclesiastes Study 2 (1:12-2:11)

- 1. What has your personal search for meaning in life been like? What have you tried to find satisfaction, purpose, fulfillment? (outside of Jesus, or before you knew Him)**
- 2. Have you been convinced of the meaninglessness of life if God is not in it? How...when?**
- 3. If there is one thing, other than God, that you are tempted to give yourself to, what is it?**
- 4. What would help you turn your search for meaning in life into a wholehearted pursuit of God?**

Personal Application – Ecclesiaster Study 4 (3:1-4:3)

1. How do you feel about God being in control of time...past, present and future?

2. What difference would it make if you lived as if every person and circumstance that came your way was a “divine appointment?”

3. What is one area in which you need to exercise faith in God’s control for the upcoming week?

4. How are you doing at receiving the “gift of God” and enjoying your work, and what God has for you in the present?

Personal Application – Ecclesiastes Study #5 (4:4-5:7)

1. Our culture can put a lot of value on independence. How do you see independence? Are you an independent person? Does this passage challenge you to grow in interdependence? How is that important to us as a Christian Community? Is God asking you to partner with others in some way?

2. How does our culture view ambition? How do you view it? Have you achieved something and lost it? Do you know someone who has? Do you have any “foolish” ambitions? What kind of ambitions would not be foolish for you to have?

3. What is the attitude of your heart when you spend time with God? Do you talk more than you listen? What is the attitude behind your words? Are there ways that you are taking God too lightly? What would it mean for you to “stand in awe of God”? Is there a way to incorporate this more into your life and time with Him?

Personal Application – Ecclesiastes Study #6 (5:8 - 6:12)

1. Our culture has an accumulation mentality? How has this influenced you? Do you find yourself caught up in it? Are you striving for more and enjoying it less? How content are you?

2.. How would you rate your attachment to the things you own? Is there one particular struggle you've had in this area?

3. Is enjoying the life God has given you a challenge? Or has it been at times? In what areas can you grow in contentment or acceptance of your life? What could help you do this?

4. What does this verse mean to you? "She seldom reflects on the days of her life, because God keeps her occupied with gladness of heart?"

During this week pray that this will be more and more a reality for you.

Personal Application – Ecclesiastes Study #7 (7:1 - 8:1)

1. How would living with the end in mind help you be wise with your life choices? ie: money, time, relationships

2. Are you impatient with a “trial” or “hardship” in your life? Do you ever long for the “good old days”? What truth from this passage can help you?

3. Full of Pride _____ Taking Sin Lightly

Where would you place yourself on this scale? Are you a woman who fears God and avoids all extremes? If you are off on one side or the other, what would help you be more centered?

4. Wisdom is a helper and protector in our life. It can give us objectivity about our circumstances and stability in going through them. What area could you use prayer for wisdom? Spend time seeking God about it this week.

Personal Application – Ecclesiastes Study #8 (8:2 – 9:12)

1. What things in your life could give you the illusion of “having control”?
(ie: money, job, talent, being good etc.)

Have you experienced these things failing you – not providing security?

2. Does it bother you when the wicked prosper?...when the righteous suffer?

What are some other “unfair” things in this life you’ve seen or experienced?

3. How can keeping the reality of your death in mind change the quality of your life? Does it give you a different perspective on your present values and priorities?

4. How can you seize the day you have been given? Enjoy it? Find comfort? Companionship? Give your all to whatever you are doing?

5. Time and chance happen to us all. How does God use the uncontrolled and unexpected circumstances in your life? Pray for ability to trust Him more.

Personal Application – Ecclesiastes Study #10 (11:1-12:14)

1. How can you increase your trust in God, the Maker of all things, by taking a risk, sowing, giving or working on something? Is there one thing (risk) God might be calling you to get involved with and trust Him?

2. Remember your Creator in your youth and remember Him before you die? How can this keep you from meaninglessness? How are you working on “Remembering God.”

3. The alternative to fearing God and obeying His commandments is fearing and obeying something less than Him – something under the sun. What else or who else are you tempted to fear and obey more than God?

4. After this study --- What would you say brings meaning to life?