

The De-Motivating Book of Ecclesiastes

The book of Ecclesiastes is probably my least favorite part of the Bible. That's because, in my opinion, it's a book of negative motivation. There are so many passages that conclude "all is vanity" (meaning all is for nothing, or nothing really matters, etc.). I cannot stand talk like that, and for the life of me I have no idea how such talk ever made it into the Bible. But I know it's part of God's inspired Word, so it needs to be respected.

I am, however, very thankful it's a short book (12 Chapters). Here's an example:

Ecclesiastes 6 (NASB)

The Futility of Life

There is an evil which I have seen under the sun and it is prevalent among men— ²a man to whom God has given riches and wealth and honor so that his soul lacks nothing of all that he desires; yet God has not empowered him to eat from them, for a foreigner enjoys them. This is vanity and a severe affliction. ³If a man fathers a hundred *children* and lives many years, however many they be, but his soul is not satisfied with good things and he does not even have a *proper* burial, *then* I say, "Better the miscarriage than he, ⁴for it comes in futility and goes into obscurity; and its name is covered in obscurity. ⁵It never sees the sun and it never knows *anything*; it is better off than he. ⁶Even if the *other* man lives a thousand years twice and does not enjoy good things—do not all go to one place?"

⁷All a man's labor is for his mouth and yet the appetite is not satisfied. ⁸For what advantage does the wise man have over the fool? What *advantage* does the poor man have, knowing *how* to walk before the living? ⁹What the eyes see is better than what the soul desires. This too is futility and a striving after wind.

¹⁰Whatever exists has already been named, and it is known what man is; for he cannot dispute with him who is stronger than he is. ¹¹For there are many words which increase futility. What *then* is the advantage to a man? ¹²For who knows what is good for a man during *his* lifetime, *during* the few years of his futile life? He will spend them like a shadow. For who can tell a man what will be after him under the sun?

I think this book may have been written with the pessimist in mind, in order to justify their pessimism or something. And it does an exemplary job of it too. I'm glad to be finished my review of it.

I hope you have an amazing, and cheerful, day!!

- Jack