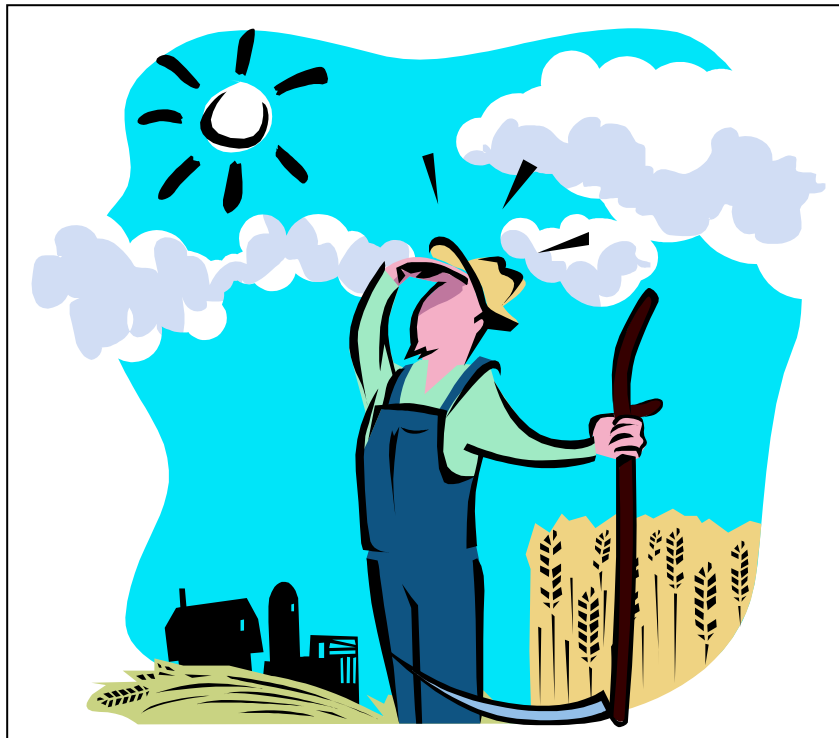


# Ecclesiastes Study 2



Life  
under the  
Sun

## **Study 2. “Life under the Sun”**

### **Discuss.**

Which of the following emotions describe how you feel when you see things like :

- Corrupt and dishonest people prospering from their deeds.
- People who work very hard but never succeed in life.
- People who are innocent mistakenly convicted for a crime they did not commit.
- Your classmate who cheat in their exams getting a better grade than you.
- Someone who is very careful to exercise and eating healthily being diagnosed with cancer.
- Rich bankers being paid their bonuses while their clients are losing money.
- A large earthquake wiping out an entire population.

### **Emotions:**

Anger, Frustration, Apathy, Hopelessness, Confusion, etc ?

Can you do anything about it?

### **Read Chapter 5:8-20**

See v8-9. Why does oppression exist? Is this fair or not ? Give your reasons.

See v10-12. Why is it that the love of money can never be satisfied? Give your reasons.

The phrase “under the sun” occurs frequently in Ecclesiastes (see v13). It is a way of saying “the point of view” of the writer. It’s the view taken from a human perspective. In other words it trying to understand things from the human point of view. The opposite phrase to this is “under heaven” which refers to God’s point of view.

Read v13-17 what is the conclusion the writer makes when he considers his observations from a human perspective?

Compare this with his other conclusion (see v18-20) when the writer considers his observation from God’s point of view. What is the conclusion he makes?

How are these two conclusions different?

**Think about it.**

What is the difference between seeing things from God’s point of view and seeing things from a human point of view ? How will it effect the following things. (split into pairs and pick one of these to discuss – report back to the whole group)

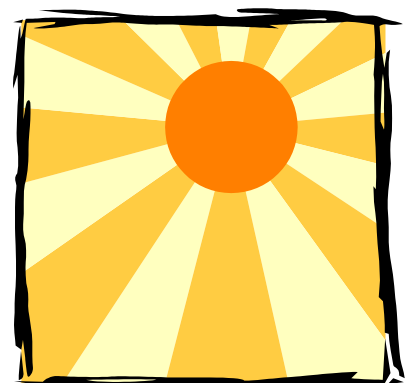
Being successful in your studies?

Building a family

Accumulation of wealth

Staying healthy and living a long life

The meaning of life.



## **Conclusion.**

Having God doesn't solve all our earthly problems. Read 6:1-9. This time the writer makes another observation about life. He does it again from a human perspective (v1 "I have seen another evil under the sun") What further observations does the writer make about life? Why does it sound so negative?

Reading Ecclesiastes can be frustrating because it makes us ask all the hard questions without giving us any of the answers. It allows us to question God and doesn't try to sweep all these hard questions under the carpet. It doesn't try to give quick easy answers and so trivialize the problems we face.

(v11) Our frustrations come because we want our life to make sense, to have a purpose or some kind of meaning. So in v12 that purpose is withheld from us, that's why it seems so meaningless.

Isn't it amazing that ancient wisdom can be so profound. It speaks truths about life that are timeless and always relevant regardless of how technologically advanced we are. It makes good sense to pay attention to it.

## **Pray.**

