

Vapor

What's the point? Why are we here? What's the meaning of life? These are the questions we have asked since the beginning of time. People respond by conquest and pursuit of wealth, pleasure and fame. Yet, the most famous, wealthy and accomplished still take their own lives in hopeless despair.

Solomon addressed these points in Ecclesiastes.

Ecclesiastes—speaker before an assembly—congregation, church

Solomon

- Asked for wisdom—in addition was given riches & honor that no king would be his equal
- Built the first temple in Jerusalem
- Indescribably wealthy & lived in excessive luxury
- 700 wives & 300 concubines
- Turned his heart away from God
- After his death the kingdom was torn in two
- Proverbs is the writing on a man in the prime of life and career
- **Ecclesiastes** is the writing of an old man looking back on his life

Vanity—Havel—meaningless, VAPOR, mist, smoke

Under the sun—life on earth from birth to death

Ecclesiastes 1:1-14

Vanity of life vs. 1-8

- Human labor—business, accomplishment
- Human history is fingernail trimmings in comparison to the length of your arm of the age of the universe

Vanity of originality (being special) vs. 9-11

- People long for originality, to do what's never been done
- Nothing new under the sun
- Everyone trying to be different ends up being a clone of someone else!

Vanity of pleasure—Eccles. 2:1-11

- CEV—Have fun and enjoy yourself
- Wine, women & song
- Anything that money could buy, he had: houses, gardens, vineyards, fruit trees of every kind, servants, silver, gold, etc.
- Whatever the eyes desired and the heart longed for
- He said to himself, "I worked hard and I deserve this!"

As an old man looking back upon his life he concluded: Vanity of vanities! Meaningless!

What every person on the planet is tempted to long for and to pursue is found to be **VAPOR!**

IF I can just _____, then I will _____.

Idolatry

- Wrong relationship with **VAPOR**.
- Worshipping creation instead of the Creator!
- Always leads to destruction.

Treasures in Heaven

- Matthew 6:19-21 - Lay up treasures in heaven
- 1 Timothy 6:17-19 - Use your money to bless others
- Mark 12:29-31, 34 - Love God and Love People