

The 'Vanity' of Life?

Ecclesiastes 1:1-2 (Series: When Life Seems Futile)

On February 16, 2025, by Philip Pinto @ Village Bible Church

➤ Why Ecclesiastes?

- God is doing something
 - Teaching us about walking with _____
(through _____ gospel)
 - Blessing us with _____
(individually and corporately)
 - Some are struggling with _____
("vanity") of life
 - In these _____ these
feelings increase!
- Ecclesiastes has something to offer all of us.
 - It _____ the commonly accepted
idea that if a person does " _____ ,"
" _____ " generally happen to that
person.
 - There is an easily _____ and
powerful message underlying the book.

➤ Getting the big picture of Ecclesiastes

- Read Scripture Series by Tim Mackie on Right Now Media
(download illustration from Right Now Media)

○ Outlining the text

I. The vanity (vapor) of life (Ec. 1-6)

II. God is still in control/keys to life (Ec. 7-12)

○ Top and tail

- "Top" [beginning]: *All is vanity.* (Ec. 1:2-11)
- "Tail" [ending]: ¹³ *The end of the matter; all has been heard. **Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.*** ¹⁴ *For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.* (Ec. 12:13-14)

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- Why Ecclesiastes?
 - God is doing something
 - Teaching us about walking with **Jesus** (through **John's** gospel)
 - Blessing us with **difficulties** (individually and corporately)
 - Some are struggling with **futility** ("vanity") of life
 - In these **last days** these feelings increase!
 - Ecclesiastes has something to offer all of us.
 - It **challenges** the commonly accepted idea that if a person does "**good things**," "**good things**" generally happen to that person.
 - There is an easily **overlooked** and powerful message underlying the book.
- Getting the big picture of Ecclesiastes
 - Read Scripture Series by Tim Mackie on Right Now Media (see other side)
 - Outlining the text
 - I. The vanity (vapor) of life (Ec. 1-6)
 - II. God is still in control/keys to life (Ec. 7-12)
 - Top and tail
 - Top [beginning]: *Vanity of vanities...* (Ec. 1:2)
 - Tail [ending]: ¹³ *The end of the matter; all has been heard. **Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.*** ¹⁴ *For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.* (Ec. 12:13-14)

Pastor's Note: Living in these last days or just generally in some level of crisis can cause even the strongest believer to focus on the "vanity" of life. Why would we turn to the book of Ecclesiastes when life feels futile? Doesn't it just reinforce that feeling? When we see the big picture of Ecclesiastes, we do find the answer to the question, "the 'vanity' of life?" It's the first in the series "When Life Seems Futile."