

Ecclesiastes 2 – Pointlessness of possessions

What's a hard lesson you've learned? What made it hard?

Read Ecclesiastes 2:1-12.

1. Briefly summarize the aspects of life “under the sun” investigated by the Preacher.

a) 2:1-3

b) 2:4-6

c) 2:7-9

d) 2:10

2. What is his conclusion at the end of these investigations (v. 11)?

Read Ecclesiastes 2:12-16.

3. As any good investigator would do after drawing a blank, the author of Ecclesiastes revisits his research method (wisdom), and the effort he put into his research (v. 12). Why does he decide that wisdom shouldn't be abandoned?

4. What great event makes neither wisdom nor foolishness any better than the other in discovering the meaning of life (vv. 14-16)?

5. How do the Preacher's conclusions in 10-16 line up with reality?

Implications

How do people try to find meaning in...

...humor/fun?

...wine?

...great projects?

...wealth?

...sex?

...wisdom?

Looking over the above list, choose 2 areas. How would you point out the futility of looking for meaning in these areas?

i)

ii)

Christians often jump to the New Testament as an antidote to the Teacher's pessimism. How does 1 Corinthians 15:12-19, 50-58 compare with the preacher's view of the world?

Give thanks and pray

- Pray that we will have the humility to accept the Preacher's conclusion about our inability to find the meaning of life.
- Pray for yourself and our church, that we will demonstrate the joy, the humility, and the realism of living according to Ecclesiastes' view of life.