



Workaholics Beware

Ecclesiastes 2:18 - 3:14

Wisdom Literature

- While other civilizations shared in wisdom literature, the major difference is the Hebrew wisdom writings acknowledged one God, denying materialism and [the worship of many gods.]
- 2 Types of Wisdom Literature: Didactic (Practical/Teaching) and Philosophical/Pessimistic (Critical/Reflective/Questioning).
- The goal of wisdom is a proper relationship with **YAHWEH**.

Wisdom Focus

- Didactic wisdom literature advocates the development of prudential habits, skills, and virtues. The aim is to develop moral character, personal success and happiness, safety, and well-being. Proverbs is an example of this type.
- Philosophical/Pessimistic wisdom literature delves deeper into issues facing mankind. It portrays the emptiness and folly of the search for insight and understanding apart from God. Job and Ecclesiastes are examples of this type.

Life's Revolving Door

- Everything is a futile attempt to impress.
- Nothing changes: Same stuff, different day!
- All will be forgotten.
- In short: Life stinks and then you die!



Test of Meaning

- Houses, vineyards, and property are pointless.
(2:4-6)
- Slaves, silver and gold are pointless. (2:7-8)
- The wise man and fool are basically the same!
(2:13-16)

➤ "Thus I considered all my activities which my hands had done and the labor which I had exerted, and behold all was vanity and striving after wind and there was no profit under the sun."

-Ecclesiastes 2:11

➤ "So I hated life, for the work which had been done under the sun was grievous to me; because everything is futility and striving after wind."

-Ecclesiastes 2:17

Futility and Attempting to Tame the Wind!

Thus I hated all the fruit of my labor for which I had labored under the sun, for I must leave it to the man who will come after me. And who knows whether he will be a wise man or a fool? Yet he will have control over all the fruit of my labor for which I have labored by acting wisely under the sun. This too is vanity. Therefore I completely despaired of all the fruit of my labor for which I had labored under the sun. When there is a man who has labored with wisdom, knowledge and skill, then he gives his legacy to one who has not labored with them. This too is vanity and a great evil. For what does a man get in all his labor and in his striving with which he labors under the sun? Because all his days his task is painful and grievous; even at night his mind does not rest. This too is vanity.

-Ecclesiastes 2:18-23

Labor Has Meaning, Right?

- All that accomplished is left for someone else.
- Legacy and hard work are forgotten as the results are simply passed on instead of earned.
- The days are hard and the nights are restless.

Futility and Attempting to Tame the Wind!

There is nothing better for a man than to eat and drink and tell himself that his labor is good. This also I have seen that it is from the hand of God. For who can eat and who can have enjoyment without Him? For to a person who is good in His sight He has given wisdom and knowledge and joy, while to the sinner He has given the task of gathering and collecting so that he may give to one who is good in God's sight. This too is vanity and striving after wind.

-Ecclesiastes 2:24-26

Might As Well Enjoy It

- Eat, drink, and find meaning in work.
- Food, drink, and work are gifts from God.
- Wisdom, knowledge, and joy are gifts from God.

Futility and Attempting to Tame the Wind!

There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven—a time to give birth and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to uproot what is planted. A time to kill and a time to heal; a time to tear down and a time to build up. A time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance. A time to throw stones and a time to gather stones; a time to embrace and a time to shun embracing. A time to search and a time to give up as lost; a time to keep and a time to throw away. A time to tear apart and a time to sew together; a time to be silent and a time to speak. A time to love and a time to hate; a time for war and a time for peace.

-Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Everything Has a Point

- God made a time for everything.
- Use each of these times appropriately.
- Rejoice and do good.



What profit is there to the worker from that in which he toils? I have seen the task which God has given the sons of men with which to occupy themselves. He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart, yet so that man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end. I know that there is nothing better for them than to rejoice and to do good in one's lifetime; moreover, that every man who eats and drinks sees good in all his labor—it is the gift of God. I know that everything God does will remain forever; there is nothing to add to it and there is nothing to take from it, for God has so worked that men should fear Him.

-Ecclesiastes 3:9-14

What About Today?

- Work is a blessing from God.
- Outside of God, work is meaningless.
- Seek to find enjoyment and purpose in what we do.



Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.