



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Ecclesiastes Sermon Series  
Supports Session 8: What's the Use?  
Sermon Title: "Significance in Dependence" (Ecclesiastes 2:12-16,25-26)

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### Connection to Ecclesiastes 1 and 2

By any account, Solomon was a successful man. However, after reflecting over his work and formidable accomplishments Solomon concluded that his accomplishments were "futile" and a "pursuit of the wind." According to Solomon, what really mattered was for people to please God who gives wisdom, knowledge, and joy.

### Introduction/Opening

Have you heard someone say things such as, "It's like pushing water uphill with a squeegee" or "It's like polishing brass on the Titanic"? There are many sayings which illustrate the supposed futility of certain actions. When confronted with the end of our lives, the pursuit of wealth, power, and status may seem futile after decades of work. It is in those times when people evaluate what is truly important and eternal.

Solomon looked at his tremendous accomplishments and accumulations of possessions and concluded they were all a "pursuit of the wind." Solomon contrasted the futility of pursuing possessions against the true eternal blessing and happiness which comes from God.

### Outline

#### I. What is your legacy? (vv. 12-14)

Solomon knew he was not immortal. Even though Solomon had great wealth and possessions, he knew those things would not follow him after death. Solomon's thoughts fell to the one who would come after him (v. 12) and concluded a new king would "do what already had been done."

Those who follow us, especially our children, repeat similar patterns due to our example. We should be intentional in leaving a legacy of pursuing Christ as opposed to pursuing possessions and wealth. A certain level of possessions and money are necessary for life but need to be in their proper place in relation to Christ. Followers of Christ, first and foremost, must pursue righteousness and Christlikeness.

#### II. It's not about you (vv. 15-16).

Solomon in his wisdom recognized his great wealth and possessions could not stave off death (v. 15). Solomon did not advocate against being wise or having enough to provide for one's family. He did consider, however, the idea of being "overly" wise. The pursuit of

wisdom, wealth, or possession at the expense of what is of highest importance is not only futile but also narcissistic.

Neither the rich nor the poor man will be remembered. Even though this might initially appear depressing, it is an encouraging realization for those who follow Christ. When believers realize it's not about us, we are free to invest in things that truly matter for others and for the kingdom of Christ.

Even though knowing our lives are temporary can be a positive realization when living a humble and Christ-honoring life, we must resist becoming fatalistic. While individuals in Scripture perform incredible acts of faith, they are far from perfect. We should reject the impulse to view life and work fatalistically or cynically and chose, instead, to see our lives as brief windows that impact the world for God's glory.

### III. Total dependence (vv. 25-26)

When Solomon recognized none of his wealth was eternal and his fate was the same as everyone else's, Solomon concluded he couldn't do anything without the Lord (v. 25). We should be totally dependent on the Lord, knowing apart from Him we can do nothing (John 15:5).

Solomon listed the rewards for the individual who depends on God alone. None of the rewards he mentioned are material blessings but spiritual blessings. Solomon made the case that those far from God are those who are made to gather and accumulate "in order to give to the one who is pleasing in God's sight" (v. 26). Those who are dependent on Christ recognize true and eternal blessings as opposed to the temporary blessings intended to bless Christ's church.

## Conclusion

The next time you hear someone say things such as, "It's like pushing water uphill with a squeegee" or "It's like polishing brass on the Titanic," know that as a believer we should have a different perspective. Years of working and acquiring may seem pointless if we are working only for ourselves. However, when we are totally dependent on Christ we will recognize it's not about us and seek to leave legacies of Christlikeness.

Have you fallen into the same belief pattern of thinking as Solomon? Have you wondered what the point is with your work and pursuit of wealth? Let the Holy Spirit speak to you this morning and turn your perspective just as He turned Solomon's from one that is self-focused to one which sees blessings found in Christ alone.

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