

Ecclesiastes

Meaningless
chasing after the wind
We all come to the same ending
Like's, Hearts, Laughs... It's all chasing after the wind

-- <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/VideoElement/204169>
(The Bible Project)

The “teacher” is a character in the book, but the author is different.
Hevel (38 times used) it's smoke, vapor
Temporary or fleeting
it's an enigma a paradox
like smoke it appears solid, but when you try to grab it it's gone
Bad things happen to good people
it's unpredictable, unstable, like chasing after the wind

Target all the ways we try to find meaning apart from God
We invest in things that have no meaning to our existence
“Go climb a mountain and see if it cares”
“No one will care what you did 100 years from now, but the mountain
will still be there”
Death is the great equalizer
Wise and the foolish
The rich and the poor

Wealth
Career - Stress, anxiety, age,
Status
Pleasure - work for your Monday always comes

Wisdom and Fear of the lord
Doesn't guarantee a good life
Good people die tragically

bad people live long and prosper
Wisdom doesn't work the way you think it should all the time

The key of true enjoyment... It's accepting Hevel
Everything in your life is out of your control
Enjoy simple good things in life
Good meal
Sunny day
Total trust in God is freedom
Simply enjoy life and experiencing, not as I think it ought to be.

Fear God and keep his commands

-- [https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/494441?
episode=2](https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/494441?episode=2)

- The harder we try to grip it, the more it slips away
- Everything has been done before and everything
- The more humans grasp for "solid" things under the Sun (like love or money or power or justice) the more they turn out to be like smoke and wind
- Only solid things is death
- Death always reveals it's futility
- All the world has to offer comes up short of God

-- [https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/494441?
episode=3](https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/494441?episode=3)

- How should I spend my brief time on Earth
- Pleasure
- Wisdom -> More problems
- Our timing vs God's timing
 - Our attempts to find contentment feel too late, too early, or not enough
 - God's timing is perfect
- Enjoy the food, the wine,
- Contentment is found in God's time and from God's hand
- instead of fearing poverty and chasing success

- fearing loneliness and grasping at pleasure and escape
- Instead fearing being foolish and burying yourself in book
- Fear God and enjoy what he has given you
- Nothing can be taken away from pleasure and wealth of what God does in timing
- The only way we can eat our food, drink our wine, and enjoy our work is when our timing and God's timing sync up
 - Eternity has been placed in our heart
 - God has a desire for our timing to be in sync

-- <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/every-days-a-bad-day>

- The secret to enjoying life
- “To begin with, Ecclesiastes tells us what life is really like. “It is an unhappy business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with” (Ecclesiastes 1:13). This is the way life really is, for all of us.”
- “Because of that first fatal sin, God cursed the ground and imposed hardship on Adam’s offspring (Genesis 3:16–19).”
- “Life is a burdensome task, a frustrating occupation, a grueling grind. It is an unhappy business. And God made it this way.”
- “Our problem is that **we don’t really believe life is an unhappy business**. We think **if we work hard, we’ll eventually succeed**. We **imagine suffering is short-term, pain is the exception to the rule, and failure merely the prelude to victory**. These **illusions** leave us blindsided by setbacks, devastated by failure and loss, bewildered by trials, confused by pain. **This isn’t the way things were supposed to go!** We talk about having “a bad day” as if it should be one in a thousand, but Ecclesiastes (and really the rest of Scripture, when you read it right side up) tells us that they are all bad.”
- “The **sooner we face the fact that we live and work in a sin-cursed world, the more realistic and stable we will be**. We will stop expecting things to always get better. We won’t be so surprised when they sometimes get worse. We **no longer fear bad news: not because we hope it’s not coming, but because we know it is coming (Psalm 112:7; Ecclesiastes 12:1)**.”
- “Get Ecclesiastes, and we can **learn to meet life’s unhappy business with pluck and humor**. We won’t be so quick to

doubt God, and we will finally have a settled peace in our heart. As my family reminds each other (with a smile) when faced with some new unhappy business, “That’s Ecclesiastes!” In other words, God can be trusted; he told us this was going to happen.”

- How about the relief of solving a problem, the delight of reading a book to your children, the blessing of easing your husband’s troubles? The fresh breeze through the open windows on carpool morning, the delightful lunch with friends, the sweet feeling of a comfortable bed at night — all of these moments of enjoyment in our work are gifts from the gracious hand of God.
- When you **start to look for God’s gifts of joy, the ratio of troubles to joys becomes astonishingly unbalanced**, leaning heavily in favor of joy. As my husband likes to say, **good gifts are raining down upon us from the hand of God, every day, all day long. We can find enjoyment in our toil if only we would take the time to see, and give thanks to God. Consider: what is one way you can remind yourself to enjoy the gifts from God’s hand today?** You will find that it is a happy unhappy business that God has given to those who please him.
- This means that no matter how much heart you poured into a failed friendship, how much creativity you invested in a business you have to close, or how much effort you put into the home you have to leave, your work for the Lord is never a net loss. Which is why Paul can exhort us to “Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain” (1 Corinthians 15:58).
- Life under the sun is brutal, and it shows no signs of getting any easier. Our work is cursed and will often, more likely than not, fail on some human level. But the godly woman can face the future with peace and confidence; she even “laughs at the time to come” (Proverbs 31:25). For the same God who told us that life is hard has told us that he is near (Psalm 34:18).

-- <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/ecclesiastes-finding-joy-amidst-lifes-enigmas>

- **“We live in a crooked world that we cannot by any level of effort make straight** (Ecclesiastes 1:15; 7:13). Unstable

jobs, orphans, judicial corruption, blown tires, broken legs, sex-trafficking, leaky faucets, failed adoptions, monthly bills, envy, project deadlines, rainy vacations, broken marriages, chronic back pain, pride, pornography, slippery roads, severed relationships, selfishness, racism, bee stings, abortions, and the ever present death of loved ones. This is our world.”

- “Yet even in the midst of it, he could still call people to **rejoice always in the pleasures of life** and to do so **recognizing them as a gift of God.**”
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