

THANK YOU FOR
JOINING US TODAY!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Pumpkin Killing!

Join us Sunday, October 27th from 1:30-4pm at Orcutt Hill Picnic Grounds for pumpkin carving, launching and eating. All are welcome, no sign ups.

Watch previous year's recap videos at ourelement.org/pk

Invites with directions available on the communion tables.

Ways to Give to Element

Lots of ways you can donate to Element, including by download a mobile app called "church center" and looking for us. Also by texting any dollar amount to 84321.

Gospel Community (GC)

GC's are our primary organizing structure here at Element. It's where we see Disciple Making take place when we orient our lives together, on and around the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is where we commit to grow as a disciple, disciple others, and make disciples; to share our lives so they are visible and accessible.


DISCIPLE: A disciple is one who increasingly submits their life to the all-empowering Lordship of Jesus Christ.


JOIN: Connect with a Group by emailing connect@ourelement.org or visiting the Welcome Center.



Join Our Weekly Email Update

Sign up using a Connect Card located under the seat in front of you or by going to ourelement.org.

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Ecclesiastes

The Existential Hangover



Week 26: Vapor Freak Out

Ecclesiastes 9:17-10:7

TODAY'S VERSES:

Ecclesiastes 9:17
Ecclesiastes 9:13-18
James 1:22

Ecclesiastes 10:1-7
1 Corinthians 1:20
Proverbs 1:7
James 1:5

Week 26: Vapor Freak Out

Ecclesiastes 9:17-10:7

Today in Ecclesiastes you will see some things that are philosophical, some that are practical, and some that are theological, but they all deal with foolishness and wisdom. Vapor/vanity are the words that are also translated as “meaningless” and most of the things we freak out about are meaningless. Today we like to classify people in a myriad of ways, Solomon (and the wisdom literature) classifies people in 2 categories: wise and foolish.

Would you classify yourself as wise or foolish?

What meaningless things do you freak out over and let consume your thought life that takes up your time/energy worrying about?

The best way to describe a fool is someone who is out of touch with reality, or how things really work. This could be how they see relationships, their work ethic, or any number of things. There is also the “they should know better” part of foolishness. Usually these two things go hand in hand because if you keep doing the same dumb thing and getting horrible results you should know enough to change the behavior. When the Bible talks about a fool, it is not speaking about one area, it’s talking about someone who is out of touch with the two basic fundamental facts about reality.

How have you experienced a fool who never learns?

7 Principles About Folly:

#1: Fools never learn. – We often forget the wisdom of those who have gone before us, suffering from a historical sort of amnesia, because we fail to read or study.

Read Ecclesiastes 9:13-16. Are there any circumstances in your life you refuse to learn from?

#2: Fools have the biggest mouths. – Foolish people tend to be loud, not just in volume, but how they speak of their choices. Not all loud people are fools...but fools tend to be loud.

Read Ecclesiastes 9:17. What foolish things/people have you found to be “loud?”

#3: One foolish person can ruin everything. – What we need is not more money or might, we need more wisdom.

Read Ecclesiastes 9:18.

In what ways does your life reflect your wisdom or foolishness?

#4: Folly stinks up a room. – Our life is a reflection of our wisdom and to what we are listening.

Read Ecclesiastes 10:1. What things in your life do you want to be different?

Are there things that wisdom says you need to change to help bring about change in that area?

#5: Look for the fools. – Wise people learn to walk in discerning ways. It is OK to prohibit foolishness from direct access to ruin our life.

Read Ecclesiastes 10:2-3. What does it mean to learn to walk in discerning ways?

With permission, go around the room and honestly speak into each others lives about areas each person needs to learn to walk in a more discerning way.

#6 - Calm down. – Ecclesiastes’ wisdom is that wise people wait and hope that their wisdom and patience will help to turn things around because if they leave there is no hope.

Read Ecclesiastes 10:4. What areas do you need to calm down and rest over meaningless vapor?

How can you be a blessing at work, your neighborhood or city?

#7 – Accept that the world (under the sun) is run by fools. – We are equal in worth before God, but many people make foolish decisions in their lives and those people tend to get into power.

Read Ecclesiastes 10:5-7. What false idols have you “made” (elevated to be) equal to God in your life? How is that foolish? What is the truth?

Here is the good news: we don’t have to be the fools....we are invited to receive wisdom. Wisdom is not found ‘under the sun’ among the cultures, philosophers, and politicians here on earth no matter how loud they are...
1 Corinthians 1:20 Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

How does God’s grace cover your idolatry?

How do you respond to His grace?

Is there hope in the fact that we don’t have to be fools?

Ask God for wisdom in humble prayer.