

THANK YOU FOR
JOINING US TODAY!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Parenting Through The Ages:

A Parenting Seminar

Our 2 day seminar is This Friday from 6-9 pm and Saturday 9-2pm.

We will explore each of the developmental phases, what your kids need during that phase and how parenting changes to accommodate those needs.

Cost is \$25 and there will be childcare provided for those who sign up today!

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

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 25: Listening Over The Vapor

Ecclesiastes 9:11-16

TODAY'S VERSES:

Ecclesiastes 9:16
Ecclesiastes 9:11-16
John 10:10

Ecclesiastes 9:2-5
Isaiah 49:15



Week 25: Listening Over The Vapor

Ecclesiastes 9:11-16

This is week 25 of our walk through the book of Ecclesiastes. In Ecclesiastes 9 Solomon will talk about death and joy, injustice and pain, what we need to remember and what we forget. The idea being that God is good enough to provide joy before death and we should embrace it as long as we can. While we have life, we also have the opportunity to make the most of our days and maximize the lot in life God has given us. The day will arrive when death overtakes us and our labors come to an end, so until that day comes we should be ambitious about our jobs, homes, families, friends, churches, and ministries because we have no idea what God may do in us and through us tomorrow.

What things has God brought you through that you didn't realize until you were on the other side of it?

The wisdom God calls us to live in starts to get skewed and pushed aside because of all the foolish voices trying to be heard in our world. We get so distracted by so much sound that we lose sight of what God is calling us into.

What things in life distract you from what God has called you to remember?

What Solomon does is look at life from a perspective of someone who is very secular. He lived part of his life like a philosophical atheist, it's why so many things in the book make us scratch our heads in wonder at what is being said. Solomon does end up in the place where he viewed God as the biblical God, the lover of our souls, but he wants to walk us there in the same manner he did. In America there are very few atheists, most people have a belief in some sort of god, but for them the answer to who God actually is isn't that important.

Have you ever doubted belief? Have you ever doubted unbelief?

Solomon refuses to let us out from under the question of our lives, meaninglessness, injustice, and especially the ultimate injustice of cosmic nothingness and "forgottenness." The beauty of the Bible is

that it tells us not to tune out injustice, but also not to despair in the midst of it. It is why Ecclesiastes goes the way that it does because Solomon is trying to move us to answering these questions with a head and heart answer.

Give some examples of injustice that you have witnessed.

How do you deal with injustice?

Does it make you feel like life is meaningless?

Solomon doesn't assume we need everything explained, he takes us on a journey of discovery. If you believe this life is all there is, then there's no such thing as injustice...yet deep inside we know there is injustice which means there must be a God. Philosophically this is a head answer.

Can you summarize the "head" answer Aaron talked about?

The writer of Ecclesiastes sees a wisdom that moves his soul, it was a foreshadowing, a pre-echo, of the *greatest* wisdom. This is why Solomon's heart answer points to a God who does not sit in heaven overlooking our misery, but the true and living God has actually done something unbelievable in what we call the Gospel. Jesus came to suffer and die for us to bring us back to God and give meaning to our suffering.

Read Ecclesiastes 9:13-16.

What is the answer for the "heart?"

How does wisdom point to Jesus?

How is Jesus the greatest wisdom?

This "head" answer is "there has to be a God," the "heart" answer speaks of His grace and remembrance of us. We get so distracted by so much sound that we lose sight of what God is calling us into, we fail to hear the answers He has provided to all of our searching.

How have we forgotten our creator God?

What did Jesus do so that we will be remembered by God?

Thank Jesus for taking our sins upon Himself so that we will not be forgotten.