

THANK YOU FOR  
JOINING US TODAY!

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Agape Thanksgiving All-Church  
Family Dinner**  
TONIGHT at 5pm at Element.  
All are welcome.

**Holiday Store for Delta**  
Element will be hosting and providing  
items and support for a free Holiday  
Store for all students at Delta High  
School. Donations and help needed.  
See the Welcome Center for more  
information.

Store open December 10-13th.  
Donations needed by December 8th.  
Volunteers needed the week of.

### Christmas Eve Services


Mark your calendars: Christmas Eve will be at 5pm, 7pm, 9pm & 11pm  
With nursery-preschool childcare at 5 & 7pm only.


**Women's Ornament Exchange**  
December 5th at 6:30pm.  
Childcare is available with RSVP only  
women@ourelement.org



**Holiday Bazaar**  
Come shop for Christmas gifts at the  
eMoms! Holiday Bazaar on December  
14th, 9-3pm at Element.

**Element at the Movies: Star Wars**  
Get your tickets at the Welcome Center  
for Star Wars Episode 9, December  
22nd, at 2:50pm. \$12 per ticket.

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# Ecclesiastes

## The Existential Hangover

## Week 32: Beyond Vapor to Truth

### Ecclesiastes 12:9-14

### TODAY'S VERSES:

Ecclesiastes 12:11  
Ecclesiastes 12:8-14  
Psalm 39:5  
Genesis 33:4

2 Timothy 3:7  
2 Peter 3:9  
Genesis 29:31  
2 Corinthians 5:21

# Week 32: Beyond Vapor to Truth

## *Ecclesiastes 12:9-14*

Today we end the book of Ecclesiastes by looking at Solomon being wise enough to speak of his vulnerabilities. He spent the entire book pointing out all the ways he had failed God's call in his life. He shows that wisdom is found in those who are willing to admit their failures and trust God in life for truth.

**Do you consider yourself a wise person? What makes you so?**

**Explain the futility of life in this fallen world.**

**How vulnerable do you allow yourself to be with others?**

Ecclesiastes is meant to open our eyes to what God is doing, to show us how vain life is without God, and have words that make us vulnerable. By the end of the book we should almost feel like we have a relationship with Solomon because of his vulnerability and honesty with us. The only way true relationships can speak truth into each other comes from a shared vulnerability.

**If you read along in Ecclesiastes, how has it opened your eyes to see what God is doing and how vain life really is?**

**How has wisdom from others been imparted in your life?**

**Who do you seek for wisdom, and in what areas?**

**Is it because they know a lot or their life displays what you desire?**

Philip Ryken commented, "*Ecclesiastes 12:8 does bring us back to the same place where we began, but we are not the same people.*"

**Read Ecclesiastes 12:9-14.**

**In what ways, or what areas of life, is your life a mess?**

**Do you believe God is good enough to bring you through it?**

**What would it look like for God to bring you through your mess?**

It is important for us to come to a place of vulnerable honesty, like Solomon, and speak the truth plainly about our past actions and realize that we are not the answer under the sun. Just like Solomon in Ecclesiastes, I think God wants to use our limps and mistakes for His glory and our good.

**What is your limp that you carry with you throughout life?**

**How can God use that limp for His glory and our good? Do you even want it to be used for good?**

**How can you develop intimacy with God through your limp?**

The scriptures are not stories about unbroken people who have it all together, it is full of stories of people who are broken and the love and grace of God that heals them. That's Solomon's story...and that is *all* our stories (if we are vulnerable enough to be honest about it).

**Is God more important than anything else? Do you live this way?**

**Do you live like God is smarter than you?**

**Do you listen and allow yourself to be talked to by God?**

Jesus hungered, thirst, wept, slept, bled, and died. Think about His vulnerability when He was betrayed, tried, beaten, and crucified. The word we use today "excruciating" (which describes our pain of brokenness pretty well) comes from the root to crucify. It is an understanding that any pain we have ever faced, Jesus went through it for us as well. Wisdom begins in surrender to Jesus.

**How is wisdom found through repentance?**

**Do you believe you are "good" on your own, and don't need Jesus' work, or to be judged?**

**Do you think God's patience means He will not eventually judge right vs. wrong?**

On the cross of Christ we all were judged. Jesus was killed because of our sin; as Christians there is still judgment, but it was fulfilled in Jesus. When we become honest we will realize the good news; the existential hangover can be over, because this life is about Jesus.

**Do you honestly want the kind of redemption where God frees you from your chains of self?**

**How do you respond to the fact that Jesus stepped into your vulnerability, experience and excruciating pain when He came to earth, lived and was crucified?**

**Do you understand the invitation for you to enter the exquisiteness of life with God?**

**Are you ready to respond to God by loving Him back and forging a relationship with Him?**