

THANK YOU FOR
JOINING US TODAY!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

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.

Gospel Class

8 week class that goes through basic Doctrine in Christianity & what Element believes specifically. Starts February 24th at 1pm in the Sanctuary. Childcare is provided with Sign Ups only.

Gospel Community (GC)

GC's are our primary organizing structure, here at Element. It's where we really see Disciple Making take place, when we orient our lives together, on and around the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It's 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.



Week 1: The Teacher's Hangover *Ecclesiastes 1:1-2*

TODAY'S VERSES:

Ecclesiastes 1:1-2
Ecclesiastes 1:8
Ecclesiastes 7:20

Ecclesiastes 2:11
Matthew 6:33

Week 1: The Teacher's Hangover

Ecclesiastes 1:1-2

Welcome to Element! This week we start a new short 33 week sermon series on the book Ecclesiastes. This book is widely popular and often misunderstood. Ecclesiastes asks one of the most important and most frequently asked questions in all of human history: what is the meaning or purpose of life?

How would you answer the question of the meaning and/or purpose of life?

Ecclesiastes sounds like it could be a thoroughly depressing book as it starts out with words, “meaningless, meaningless, all is meaningless.” The book however must be seen in light of all the rest of the Scriptures, because the rest of the Scriptures actually answer Solomon’s most perplexing question of meaning in life. This book is narrated by the “teacher,” his job is to disrupt us and our thought processes because he doesn’t want to just affirm truths that we already know, but provide a space for honest dialogue and reflection. The teacher forces us to wrestle with what we believe to be true instead of spoon feeding truth to us.

What things were you taught as a child that you simply accepted without question?

Did you ever find one of the things you were told to be false?

What happened?

The reason we are calling the series the Existential Hangover is that the teacher is someone who went after everything they thought they wanted in order to be fulfilled in their existence, only to wake up the next morning and ask the question, “now what?”

Answer this question; if only I had _____ then I'd be fulfilled?

Ecclesiastes is about getting all the things you want in life and then realizing that they are meaningless apart from the grace of God who gives it. In Japanese society Paris, France is held up as an ideal of having your dreams come true. Japanese advertisements tell their people that, “if you go to Paris, you will have your dreams come true.” The Japanese build it up so much that they have an actual mental health diagnosis called, “Paris Disappointment Syndrome.”

Have you ever gotten what you wanted and then been disappointed?

How have you pursued meaning in your life?

What in your life currently feels meaningless?

Meaningless: This is the word hebel (hevel) and it literally means a mist, a vapor, or most like a breath. Some translations say “vanity,” but the word is vapor.

Read Ecclesiastes 1:1-2 (get ready to smile because a bunch of optimism is coming your way).

Do you agree with the passage or disagree?

Why or why not?

Read Matthew 6:33.

Do you believe that pursuing God makes life meaningful?

Why or why not?

Matthew 6 reminds us to set our heart to understand that our life is grace from God’s hand. It is meant to be lived in humility of His rescue of us. When we understand HIS WORK for us we THEN will be properly able to appreciate and enjoy that life that is a gift from Him because it will be focused upon Him.