

THANK YOU FOR
JOINING US TODAY!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Church Business Meeting

Join us next Sunday at 1pm for a quick business meeting that our covers budget and where we're headed in 2019.

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

This is an 8 week class that goes through basic Doctrine & 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 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.



Week 2: Progress is a Vapor *Ecclesiastes 1:1-11*

TODAY'S VERSES:

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11
1 Kings 2:2-4
Ecclesiastes 1:17

John 1:1
John 1:14

Week 2: Progress is a Vapor *Ecclesiastes 1:1-11*

Welcome to our second week in the book of Ecclesiastes, where the teacher helps us examine the apparent absurdities found in human existence. In life, we tend to seek meaning or purpose through things that have no business offering fulfillment. The teacher believes that there are three main ways how people try and make sense of the world:

- The humanistic answer (“I am going to make the world a better place.”)
- The hedonistic answer (“Pleasure is the reason I am alive”).
- The existential answer (“It is all meaningless, what is the point?”)

Answer the question Solomon asks in Ecclesiastes 1:3:

“What does man gain from all his toil (labor) for which he toils under the sun?”

What is your life about?

Do you believe life is meaningless? Why or why not?

There are two main phrases to understand in Ecclesiastes:

- **Meaningless:** It literally means a mist, a vapor, or a breath.
- **Under the Sun:** It can also be “under the heavens.” It is a euphemism for this life.

Solomon- the author of Ecclesiastes attempted to make sense of the world through pleasure, his own ability, his own wisdom, and leisure. He did all of these better than any of us could even imagine (some of the things he made still exist to this day). But he believe all people will eventually be forgotten and our feeble attempts at success will mean nothing. Ecclesiastes takes a look at life without God and this book serves as a letter against false hope.

How do you feel when you think about dying and being forgotten?

Why do you work to obtain pleasure, wealth, or leisure?

Does relationship with God bring meaning into the world? Why or why not?

In Ecclesiastes Solomon will relate much of our life to metaphorically driving around a cul-de-sac (or round-about) trying to find meaning. He tries to get us to ask questions that are bigger, “than what you are doing this weekend or next year;” the questions he asks center around our entire life and ultimately eternity. This is why he uses the phrase “under the sun” to get us to see that there is more beyond what we experience “under the sun,” there is beauty in how God invades our space to bring life again.

Read Ecclesiastes 1:8-10.

What are some things that people think are new, but have been around before in a different way?

Why do we get so excited for something new?

What is the benefit of looking at something old and finding value in it?

The Westminster shorter catechism says, “What is the chief end of man? A man’s chief end is to glory God, and to enjoy him forever.”

What is your understanding of glorifying God?

Does glorifying God and enjoying Him forever seem possible? Why or why not?

Ecclesiastes is meant to push us to understand that what we do today actually has meaning. How we do what we do should glorify God, not just in our words but actions, because we are made in the image of a God who brings order out of chaos. When Jesus becomes our everything (a word Solomon uses a lot) we find splendor in the ordinary, we see that the mundane things in life are shot through with glory.