

THANK YOU FOR  
JOINING US TODAY!

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### Church Business Meeting

Join us TODAY at 1pm for a quick business meeting that covers our 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](http://ourelement.org).

### Gospel Class

This is an 8 week class that goes through basic Doctrine & what Element believes specifically. Starts February 17th 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](mailto:connect@ourelement.org) or visiting the Welcome Center.



## Week 3: Wisdom is a Vapor *Ecclesiastes 1:12-18*

### TODAY'S VERSES:

1 Corinthians 2:6-7	1 Corinthians 15:22
Ecclesiastes 1:12-18	1 Corinthians 1:27-31
Genesis 3:15	2 Corinthians 5:21
Romans 5:12-21	John 10:10

## Week 3: Wisdom is a Vapor *Ecclesiastes 1:12-18*

We are doing a series in the book of Ecclesiastes that we are calling the “Existential Hangover”. Existential refers to “relating to existence” or the question, “What is the meaning of life?” We run after many things in life (stuff, relationships, a new identity) thinking that those things are the point, and yet in the end they are all meaningless. Solomon calls them a vapor, something that is briefly here then dissipates. Ecclesiastes is about the day after you get all the things you thought you ever wanted and yet you are still you. The book raises questions and contrasts “life under the sun” meaning our experience, what we create without God, and what God actually does.

**Have you ever spent time, effort, energy, or money trying to get something?**

**Have you ever gotten the thing you wanted?**

**How did you feel in a day, week, month, or year after?**

Solomon tried to find meaning in life “under the sun” by pursuing many of the favorite things of all people on the earth.

- **Wealth** – If we just made more money we would be happier.
- **Power** – If we just had more control over the things around us we would be happier.
- **Religion** – If we could find meaning in all our own effort we would be happier.
- **Friends** – If we had more friends, less friends, or the right friends we would be happier.
- **Work** – If we could find meaningful work we would be happier.
- **Pleasure** – If we could gratify our desires we would be happier.

**In what things do you look for fulfillment?**

**Do they always fulfill?**

After all of the things Solomon pursued he realized that nothing that comes from the hand of man can give any indicator of why we are here. Solomon says you can trust me, I have tried EVERYTHING and there is nothing UNDER THE SUN to find meaning in because it's ALL a vapor.

**Look at friends or family around you, what things are they pursuing that will leave them empty?**

**Why do you think that?**

Success in our lives is not getting what we think we want, it is trusting God for what we need. Solomon experienced everything and realized that we can't fix anything because we ourselves are broken and it is God who is the only one who is able to fix the cursed and broken earth.

**We have talked about the nature of sin at Element many times, but again, what is your understanding of the definition of sin?**

**Why is it important to be clear about what sin actually is?**

Soren Kierkegaard once stated that sin is building your self-worth on, “anything other than God.” He means that when we take a good thing and make it an ultimate thin, that which provides us fulfillment, it has a tendency to become sin. Sin when full blown brings death to us in separating us from our source of life, God Himself.

**Read James 1:14-15.**

**How does sin bring death?**

**How does looking for true satisfaction apart from Christ usually lead to separation from Him?**

**What does God promise to do with this cursed world?**

Christ promises to redeem us and make us new. Matt Chandler says, “*Christ removes the futility and vanity from the soul and brings about the purpose that you and I are dying for.*”