

THANK YOU FOR
JOINING US TODAY!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Connect Party

Friday, March 8th at 6pm.

All are welcome, whether new to Element or have been here for years and would like to connect with the leadership of Element and others.

Dessert will be provided and children are welcome. RSVP by emailing connect@ourelement.org

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 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 or visiting the Welcome Center.



Week 5: The Focus on Vapor Ecclesiastes 2:12-17

TODAY'S VERSES:

Ecclesiastes 2:13
Luke 22:31
Job 1:21
Job 2:9

Ecclesiastes 2:1-17
Romans 3:23
Psalm 49:10
Proverbs 10:7

Colossians 3:1-4
Ephesians 2:4-7
Colossians 2:1-3
Colossians 3:4

Week 5: The Focus on Vapor

Ecclesiastes 2:12-17

Welcome to week 5 of Ecclesiastes where we continue to talk about the meaningless of life outside of relationship with Christ. So far in Ecclesiastes Solomon has continued to come back to the meaningless people live in “under the sun.” Under the sun means the realm of which we create as human beings, the world and our lives apart from God.

Read and Discuss: Ecclesiastes 2:1-17.

In the scripture reading, Solomon shares that he has experienced more pleasure, more wisdom, more wealth, and more accomplishments than any of us. He comes back to what he has said multiple times in the first 2 chapters of Ecclesiastes, that they are meaningless. Things in and of themselves are meaningless.

Have you ever done certain things with the expectation of fulfillment or happiness?

What things have brought you fulfillment or happiness (at least on a temporary basis)?

This week Solomon is trying to wrestle with the idea of “if I am so smart then why am I not happy?” He lived his life with a wisdom that believed he would be able to figure out life and find satisfaction.

What is your understanding of wisdom and foolishness?

In your opinion is it better to be wise or foolish? Explain your position.

Solomon takes a position that says that wisdom and folly are not the same and that ultimately wisdom is better than folly. He says in Ecc 2:13-14 “Then I saw that there is more gain in wisdom than in folly, as

there is more gain in light than in darkness. The wise person has his eyes in his head, but the fool walks in darkness.”

However, even though he takes a stand that wisdom is better than folly he comes to the conclusion that ultimately the same fate happens to all people (whether wise or foolish). But, even though we die and have the same fate, Solomon believes it is better to be wise than foolish in this life “under the sun.” He believes that wisdom will help us navigate life and allow us to become more aware of what is around us, to have proper goals, and avoid adding extra pain to our life. While all of this is good, it is still meaningless without Christ because without Him, life is fleeting in meaning (like a vapor) here one second and gone the next.

How do you believe God wants us to live out our lives?

Why?

Life under the sun is completely meaningless when it rests solely in the hands of man. If we only see our lives as a man centered paradigm we will look at life and hate all there is because ultimately it is vapor. The scriptures show us where to find meaning and hope, and it is not in our quest to find meaning, it is that our God came to find us because we were lost.

Read Colossians 3:1-4, and Ephesians 2:4-7.

These verses give us a perspective that life is not to be man centered, we can have life and meaning because of Jesus’ rescue of us. We can see meaning in hardship, we see hope in the midst of unanswered questions, we can even see life when confronted with death because Jesus Himself is the way, the truth and the life.

How has relationships given or not given meaning to your life?

How can relationship with Jesus bring meaning to meaninglessness?