

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 TODAY 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.

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Week 6: Working on Vapor Ecclesiastes 2:18-26

TODAY'S VERSES:

Ecclesiastes 2:20-21
Ecclesiastes 2:1-17
Ecclesiastes 2:18-26
Romans 1:22

Ecclesiastes 9:10
Ecclesiastes 10:10
John 4:7
Isaiah 55:1-3

Week 6: Working on Vapor

Ecclesiastes 2:18-26

Today we will finish chapter 2 in the book of Ecclesiastes and begin to move further into slightly less depressing chapters. Up till this point we see that Solomon hates life under the sun because all he sees is death. Death will be the end to all his wisdom, all his strivings, all of his pursuits. It is why Ecclesiastes pushes us to seek answers to Solomon's questions in the rest of the Scriptures. Seeking answers leads us to Jesus who offers something else "under the sun." He brings the Gospel, which is the good news that in Jesus our wisdom isn't the only or best wisdom. He has come to rescue us from our self-focused and self-centered way of life so our perspective sees beyond the sun to truly see the son and be made new again.

What has been your thoughts and feelings so far in Ecclesiastes?

Have you gotten tired of Solomon saying the same old things?

Do you think you are ready to see what else he now has to say?

Read Ecclesiastes 2:20-21

Let's recap what we have learned so far in our series on Ecclesiastes;

- life is boring
- we have no ability to straighten the broken or crooked world
- diversions associated with pleasure are temporary and leave us unfulfilled
- great minds on their own will never answer or solve the problem of existence

Solomon found that all things are vapor (vanity, a mist); they are meaningless in and of themselves. Ecclesiastes is a book that asks question after question about the true meaning of life. Solomon, through his own life experience takes us down all the paths we could never travel on our own and finds out they are meaningless. The teacher tells us this because he realizes that if man is the center of the universe and creation, then every action is meaningless because there is nothing that comes after.

How do you think things would be if sin never entered the world?

How do you seek happiness?

All men seek happiness, this is without exception. Whatever different means they employ, they all tend to move to this end. The cause of some going to war and of others avoiding it is the same desire in both (even though they are attuned with different views). Mankind tends to make every move it does in a prideful, self-centered way that only moves towards it's own fulfillment. "This is the motive of every action of every man, even of those who hang themselves." - Blaise Pascal

Do you agree or disagree with Pascal's assessment? Explain.

Solomon is not saying that outside of Jesus no one can ever have a good marriage or good work life. The truth is that you may end up being a good husband, wife, boss, worker, but you will never know the fullness of what marriage or work was created to be without Jesus. Only those who have submitted to Christ have the full life of knowing that we were not created for us, we were created because God Himself is good.

How have you made sense of the world?

What does a "meaningful existence" mean to you?

Is it possible or a myth?

Do you believe Jesus can offer fulfillment?

Read Isaiah 53:1-3

God asks, "How long are you going to buy bread that doesn't satisfy you? How long are you going to continue to do the same things over and over and over again in the hopes that finally you're going to find fulfillment?" God gives an invitation, the same invitation that echoes for all eternity and is found in the Gospel of Jesus, "*Come, to Me. Come eat My bread. Come drink My wine. Come sit at My table and partake in the richest of fare. Come be filled.*"

What do you think it would be like to finally be filled?

How would that translate into our relating the Gospel to those around us?