

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.

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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 7: Seasons of Vapor Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

TODAY'S VERSES:

Ecclesiastes 3:1
Exodus 3:13-14
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8
Genesis 1:1

Nehemiah 9:6
Deuteronomy 32:39
Romans 5:9-10
Isaiah 53:7

Galatians 4:4
John 7:30
Romans 5:6

Week 7: Seasons of Vapor

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Welcome to Element! We are now 7 weeks into the book of Ecclesiastes and surprisingly people are still attending Element and my counseling referrals have not increased since starting the sermon series (that's a joke)! To recap, the teacher in the Book of Ecclesiastes has done more than anyone else in history; he has accomplished more, had bigger and better parties, more sex, more power, and more wisdom than anyone who has come before and likely to come after him, but he finds that all of his pursuits have been meaningless (or vapor) in the realm of "under the sun." The teacher is writing to warn us not to pursue things in life that will leave us feeling empty.

If you could travel back in time where (or what event) would you go?

Would you observe, participate, or try to change anything?

How do you see yourself doing that?

Ecclesiastes 3 takes a hiatus from all the talk about meaninglessness and provides more reflection on time. Aaron started his sermon with God's name, Yahweh, which literally means "to be." He has been and always will be who He is; God doesn't change. This "being-ness" means a few things:

- (1) God is self-existent and therefore He is not dependent on anything else for His own existence.
- (2) God is the creator and sustainer of all that exists, including time.
- (3) God is unchanging in His being and character. He is not in the process of becoming something different from what or who He is.
- (4) God is eternal in His existence.

From God's name we gather that He exists and will continue to exist.

Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.

What comes to mind when reading this passage?

What was the last good season of life you think you have had?

Please explain and elaborate.

What was the last bad season of life you have had?

Please explain and elaborate.

One of the few "givens" of existence is that if you are born you will eventually die. The understanding of our own mortality can actually help us utilize time more appropriately when we see time for what it is: a gift given from God's gracious hand.

In what areas of your life do you squander your time?

In what areas do you think you use your time wisely?

Ecclesiastes 3 is a chapter filled with what are known as merisms. Merisms are a collection of opposites that are designed to express the totality of something which sits in between them. Genesis 1:1 "*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth,*" heaven and earth are meant to reflect one extreme to the other and everything in between; it is a way to say God created everything without having to list out everything in creation.

How can the idea of merisms be applied to God Himself and His work?

What is your understanding of the expression, "the fullness of time?"

The beginning of Ecclesiastes Chapter 3 reminds us that we should love Jesus and make good use of the time He has placed in our hands. Time is like a commodity God has given us; it is precious. Stephen Olford calls time, "a fragment of eternity given by God to man as a solemn stewardship." The best use of time is trusting Jesus and living out that life by giving away what He has given to us.

In what ways could you better steward what God has placed into your hands?