

THANK YOU FOR
JOINING US TODAY!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

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.

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 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 4: Our Own Hangover *Ecclesiastes 2:1-11*

TODAY'S VERSES:

Psalm 16:11
Ecclesiastes 2:1-11
1 Kings 4:22-23

Romans 1:19-25
Colossians 2:16-23
Psalm 16:11

Week 4: Our Own Hangover

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

The church father Augustine once said, *“He who has God has everything. He who does not have God has nothing. He who has God and everything has no more than he who has God alone.”* Solomon, in the book of Ecclesiastes is trying to get us to understand that all we need is God alone.

What things have you pursued over a relationship with God?

As we keep saying, a big push in the book of Ecclesiastes is the question, “What is the meaning of life?” Do we live our lives as if they are expressions of gifts we have ALREADY received or do we live like we are always searching for something? If you are having a hard time figuring that out, Ecclesiastes is a great starting point to have an awareness that all we have and have been through is from the hand of God. When that truth begins to click we enter into the realm of the eternal. Joy doesn’t have a beginning and end just like peace doesn’t have a beginning and end. When the temporary takes over our life we become lost, it becomes vapor.

Read Ecclesiastes 2:1-11:

What do you do to experience pleasure?

It is important to remember that Solomon looked for meaning and purpose in almost every area, he found that they all resulted in futility. Laughter, alcohol, projects, hobbies, leisure, wealth, the arts, sex, fame, and work are all things that Solomon experiences more completely than anyone in human history; he experiences these things in the fullest. What he built, still stands. He partied harder than anyone, had more wealth than anyone and claims to have done everything better than we have and he found it all meaningless.

Have you ever asked yourself when will you be happy and satisfied in life?

If so, what is your answer?

Is it when this life is over? Is it something you experience today?

What causes you to lose your satisfaction?

Our culture is on a downward spiral, with higher rates of depression, divorce, suicide, and debt than ever before in history. One of the reasons for these things is we confuse the creation with our creator; meaning we take something that was created by God for us and use it as something that we believe will fulfill us completely instead of turning our hearts towards God and worshiping Him.

Have you ever found fulfillment in God?

Please elaborate what that means.

Jesus teaches that if/when we love God first and foremost everything else will fall into order. We don’t have to feel bad for enjoying drink, sex, work, leisure, hobbies or whatever it is we enjoy if we understand these things are gifts from God our creator. When we love Him first it allows us to find satisfaction in what He has given us.

Read Psalm 16:11:

Why is it important to understand where pleasure comes from?

How can a misunderstanding of where pleasure comes from lead to a misunderstanding of pleasure itself?

Pleasure comes from God, He doesn’t just give it—He is it!