

THANK YOU FOR  
JOINING US TODAY!


## UPCOMING EVENTS:


### Baptism



Do you have a desire to be baptized but large crowds intimidate you? Or maybe just have more questions? Stop by the Welcome Center for more details and/or attend one of our *Baptism Informational Meetings on Sunday March 30, or April 14 following each of our Sunday Services.*

We will hold two baptisms this year: May 5th (smaller setting) and September 1st (large party).

### Follow Us Online

 [www.ourelement.org](http://www.ourelement.org)

 [info@ourelement.org](mailto:info@ourelement.org)

  @ourelement

### 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.

### 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).



## Week 10: Vapor, Dust, and Hedges Ecclesiastes 3:18 - 4:3

### TODAY'S VERSES:

Isaiah 10:23  
Ecclesiastes 3:17  
Genesis 18:25  
Ecclesiastes 3:18-20  
Psalm 49:12  
Ecclesiastes 3:21-22

Ecclesiastes 3:15  
Ecclesiastes 4:1-3  
John 14:1  
Genesis 3:15  
Genesis 15:17  
Exodus 19:19

Exodus 20:15,  
Isaiah 4:5, 31:9  
2 Corinthians 5:21  
John 10:10  
Matthew 6:9-10  
John 14:14

# **Week 10: Vapor, Dust, and Hedges**

## *Ecclesiastes 3:18 - 4:3*

Welcome to Element! We are 10 weeks into our sermon series on the book of Ecclesiastes. Ecclesiastes is a book that covers the topic of what gives life meaning and purpose and where that meaning and purpose is found. Some people see the book as being a very grim outlook on life, but it is simply giving us a look at reality of life outside of the understanding of God. The author of this book experienced more success, accumulated more wealth, experienced more pleasure, and essentially was better at just about anything (in his own mind), but he found that all of his pursuits were meaningless and ended with death...he seems to be the only one honest enough to admit it.

**Are there any 'things' you own that you worry how they will be used after you die? What and why?**

**Are there any 'things' you would use differently if you had a better view of your own mortality?**

Last week we spoke of injustice, wickedness, and expectations; many times these expectations and injustices can often lead people to have difficulty seeing or trusting what God is doing.

**In what areas do you tend to question God?**

**What type of injustices make it harder for you to trust God?**

Celtic spirituality had positive and negative effects on Christianity when it spread through places like Ireland. One of the most positive effects it had was trying to open our minds to get us to see the world in a more dramatic and poetic light. Celtic Christianity speaks of 'thin places' where the natural world and the supernatural worlds come together at their thinnest points, they believe these are most seen at the birth of a child or the death of someone. They teach if we could understand our own frailness and the glory and creativity of God that we would live more in humility.

**Are there places where you find "thin"; where you see and hear the eternal better?**

**Why do you think God does not allow us to peer into heaven?**

Solomon struggles with the fact that the poor will remain poor, that pleasure does not last or truly satisfy, and no matter how smart we are, the world will still be broken apart from God's rescue of it. That means that at times people will treat one another poorly and that ultimately every living creature dies.

**What are your thoughts of what happens after you die?**

**If you were to write your own eulogy, what would you like it to say?**

**Where do you tend to go when you have unanswered questions?**

Solomon writes the book of Ecclesiastes, in part, as a way of asking questions about the true meaning of life. The book is meant to push us to find answers; these answers will only be found in the rest of the Scriptures. In John 14:1 Jesus says "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me." Jesus invites us to not just simply believe in Him, but into relationship with Him.

**Do you believe God is trustworthy?**

**Do you find you trust God when you don't understand what He is doing? Why or why not?**

Many times we think grace, hope, goodness, and restoration (the Kingdom of God) is only for after we die, but that is exactly the problem. If it is only good for after we die it makes no difference to us today...this is why when Jesus comes "under the sun" to "our side of the hedge" it is spoken in terms of something that happens now. God has invaded our reality and makes His presence and power available to those who want Him. The gospel is more than a secret word that gets us into heaven, the Gospel is the answer to Solomon's questions!

**How does belief in Jesus offer hope for the world now and not just after we die?**