

THANK YOU FOR
JOINING US TODAY!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Connect Party


THIS 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
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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 8: Man (Vapor) vs God (Reality)

Ecclesiastes 3:9-15

TODAY'S VERSES:

Ecclesiastes 3:11
Ecclesiastes 3:9-15
Psalm 27:4

Isaiah 53:2
Colossians 1:22

Week 8: Man (Vapor) vs God (Reality)

Ecclesiastes 3:9-15

Welcome to week 8 of Element's sermon series on Ecclesiastes. This book was written by King Solomon to show his thoughts on the existence of life and what makes life meaningful. The central theme of Ecclesiastes is, "What is the meaning of life?" Solomon's words can surprise, depress, and at times inspire the readers. Solomon believes that man's view of reality when based on things we create, under the sun, will result in a meaningless existence.

What is your understanding of beauty?

What is your understanding of virtue?

Many philosophers from Aristotle to Kant have believed that in order to be happy people must be living virtuous lives. Aristotle believed that a virtue was simply the means (the middle) between two extreme vices, whereas Kant believed to enjoy something lessens its inherent virtue. Kant believed that it was more virtuous to do something out of duty rather than enjoyment. This belief of Kant has snuck its way into Christianity, which leads many Christians to not find *enjoyment* in God, but instead love Him or believe in Him because it is duty.

Do you believe that following God can result in an increase in pleasure?

Why or why not?

C.S. Lewis in the *Weight of Glory* says, "We are halfhearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased."

Where in your life would you say you are too easily pleased?

Today we talked about the difference between subjective meaning and objective meaning.

- Subjective meaning comes about when we have nothing to live for other than ourselves. When that happens we go looking for things to place meaning upon, in order to give our lives value. This is called subjective meaning.
- Objective meaning comes from a place of faith and truth that believes in a God who created us and is bigger than us. It revels in the truth that it is God who has given us meaning, we don't give God meaning, He objectively gives it to us as a gift based upon who He is.

Surrendering our lives to follow Jesus should bring us to a place where we aren't using God, but are actually finding objective truth and beauty in who He is.

What is your understanding of subjective truth verses objective truth?

Did you understand this concept?

Can you put it into words?

Do you believe objective truth exists?

Do you love Jesus because you find Him beautiful, or because you find Him useful?

Our culture has a hard time with objective truth. Our culture tells us that everyone's morals can be right or okay and there is no one true way to live. The problem with living in a subjective reality is that nothing will satisfy our souls, because nothing that is subjective can be fulfilling.

Read Ecclesiastes 3:11-15.

Have you ever pursued pleasure only to find that it was meaningless or empty?

Can you define "beauty" as Aaron described it from the message?

Is there a perspective that could change you to see God as beautiful?