

THANK YOU FOR
JOINING US TODAY!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Good Friday Service

This Friday, April 19th from 7-8pm
Childcare: Nursery - Preschool
Good Friday is a time for deep and sober reflection about our lives, especially if there had been no Cross and no Resurrection. It is a time to remember our great Redeemer who purchased us from our waywardness and called us home.

Easter Services

This Saturday 6pm, nursery-K provided
Sunday Morning normal times, 8:15, 9:30 & 11am with full childcare programs at all

Women's Bible Study

Beginning a new study on Choosing Gratitude by Nancy Leigh DeMoss, April 17th at 9:30am. Please sign up for free childcare at the welcome center.
Books may be purchased on Amazon or free audible on Hoopla App.

Financial Peace University

Take control of your money with FPU. This nine-lesson course uses biblical wisdom and common sense to help you tackle budgeting, pay off debt, and make your money work for you.

Begins June 18, 2019, 6:30pm - 8:30pm.
Cost is \$100 per family, which includes class, workbook and access to online tools for a year. Childcare is provided if you register prior to Monday, June 17th.

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Week 14: The Riches of Vapor *Ecclesiastes 5:8-12*

TODAY'S VERSES:

Ecclesiastes 5:8-12
1 Timothy 6:10
Matthew 6:19-21

Week 14: The Riches of Vapor

Ecclesiastes 5:8-12

Welcome to the book of Ecclesiastes week 14. We are calling the series, 'The Existential Hangover' because whenever we get to a place where we think we have our lives ironed out, we still have to wake up the next day and continue to live. Eventually, we all end up in a place where we wonder if what we spend so much of our effort and time doing is actually worth the cost. Ecclesiastes is about living in a way that honors God first. Ultimately that is what will bring us satisfaction. It starts with our hope in the person of Jesus as He rescues, saves, and makes all the difference.

Is there anything in your life that you are currently obsessing over?

Other than working and sleeping, on what do you spend the majority of your time doing?

Jesus tells us that if anyone is in Christ they are a new creation; they are His children, and they are precious. When we build our satisfaction on others we find dissatisfaction, because only Jesus can sustain the weight of our expectation. Only Jesus knows how bad we are and is prepared to completely redeem us. This is why Solomon keeps coming back to the idea that our satisfaction must be found in God or our lives turn into meaningless messes. We have a whole new way of looking at all of our messes as we perceive them through the lens of Gospel; the good news of what God has done to rescue us in JESUS.

Describe a situation that would look different in your life if you looked at it through the lens of the Gospel?

Today we must start with a remembrance of the Gospel and who God is because Solomon will start to talk about money and class warfare. The issues surrounding money have been used to divide people by various ideologies throughout the ages. Each group looks at themselves as the ideal and others as unrighteous and needing to be put in its place or gotten rid of all together. We all tend to look at our particular economic situation and believe that it is the most holy of all options; we forget that we are all evil and only Jesus is good.

What is your current financial condition (lower class, middle class, upper class)?

What do you think is the best way to spend your capital?

How do you tend to spend your money?

Solomon says that when we get more money other people usually want to take it. Those who think they don't have enough assume everyone else has more than enough. *He who loves money will not be satisfied with money (Ecc 5:10)... When goods increase, they increase who eat them (Ecc 5:11)...* It is why Jesus relates the whole idea of money to treasure: *Matthew 6:19-21 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

Read Ecclesiastes 5:8-12.

Without naming names, is there anyone in your life that you think spends money on dumb things?

Do you think there is anyone who could say that about you?

Why?

Sin makes us want to clutch on to money and shut God out; to be greedy and then be deceived. *"I'm not wealthy, I don't make enough, I don't have to think about other people, I only need to worry about myself."* Many people think that if they had more they would be more generous, however, research doesn't bear this out. When money and stuff owns us we tend to come up with all sorts of reasons to center ourselves upon it all the while claiming we have enough. It is a position that leads not to freedom, but to bondage and is meaningless. The good news is that Jesus has come to remind us of our calling and hope. His death and resurrection sets us free from the bondage of envy and greed and restores our focus where it is meant to be, upon Him.

Going back to the first question, what in your life are you obsessing over right now?

How can a focus on Christ change that obsession?