

THANK YOU FOR
JOINING US TODAY!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Financial Peace University (FPU)

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.

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 17: The Operation of Vapor *Ecclesiastes 6:10-12*


TODAY'S VERSES:


Ecclesiastes 6:12
1 Timothy 6:6-8
Ecclesiastes 6:10-12



Deuteronomy 29:29
Isaiah 55:8
1 Corinthians 13:12

Romans 1:21-22
Romans 1:25
Matthew 24:35

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Week 17: The Operation of Vapor

Ecclesiastes 6:10-12

Welcome to Element! We are in week 17 of our sermon series on the book of Ecclesiastes. This week is the last of four weeks that have gone together to provide an overall view of life, money, and satisfaction. The overarching theme of the past few weeks has been the following question, “Have you ever thought about how much you need God?” Answering that is a good place to start:

How much do you think (really believe) that you need Jesus?

Many times we do not live in a place where we consistently remember how much we need to trust Jesus and His grace over us. Most of the time we live our lives and only think about God when something or someone falls apart around us. We do not live with a consistent, Gospel-centered life of surrender; trusting in the person of Christ.

Read 1 Timothy 6:6-8.

Recap the big questions from two weeks ago:

1. **Do you enjoy the wealth (big or small), the possessions (new or old), & the honor that God has already given you?**
2. **When you do get money, honor, and things do you share them?**
3. **Are you satisfied and content with what God has given you in life?**

The point of life is to enjoy God first and foremost, which will allow us to enjoy the things He has given us. Even in death we understand that the point was/is to enjoy God and what He gives. Out of our trusting of His provision and sovereignty comes our ultimate understanding of life and death...all of this eventually results in true worship.

Read Ecclesiastes 6:10-12

The questions from this week:

4. **Are you content to trust God for your life?**
5. **Do you trust God’s wisdom as being higher than your wisdom? Where is that easy? Where is that difficult?**
6. **Do you know the meaning of life and what will happen to you when you die?**

Tim Keller summarizes faith and trusting of God like the difference between a placebo and real medicine. A placebo is a “fake” medicine that doesn’t do anything; it is given in drug trials as a control to see if the real medicine is effective. He says that if a placebo is effective at all, it is because it is believed in, but, *“medicine has real power over the physical universe and will help you whether it’s believed in or not.”* Many people today will say “faith” is a placebo, that there are no real effects, we just think it has some. But Ecclesiastes wants us to see that faith in God is real and God affects the world whether we believe or not. When we base our lives solely on what is “under the sun” we end up feeling like everything is meaningless because we failed to trust in the ultimate Truth, Jesus.

When we live as if there is no God, no larger world, we are, in effect, trying to become our own savior and it does not work because we are not The Savior. We end up digging our lives deeper and deeper into a hole thinking the answers will be found in ourselves, but they are not. Reality is found only in Jesus.

Have you ever felt “good enough” by your own accord?

Why or why not?

Where in your own life do you try and be your own savior?

God wants us to repent and acknowledge that we are not God of our lives, that He in His infinite wisdom is wiser than we will ever be. He wants us to know that He alone is good and through His goodness we get to enjoy life and experience pleasure. We know that we’re built for something more than just this life we experience, yet we do everything we can to deny it. This is why the point of the Scriptures is Jesus. We need to understand our sins are bad, but trying to be our own savior is many times worse. We need to understand that God has called us to redemption in Him, when we rest in that redemption we begin to trust Him for His grace over us.