

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.

Youth Camp Fundraiser

Help duct tape Cory to a wall. Get tickets at the Welcome Center \$1 = a strip or \$8 for 10 strips


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.

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Week 18: Sober-Minded Vapor Management *Ecclesiastes 7:1-13*

TODAY'S VERSES:

Ecclesiastes 7:8
Ecclesiastes 7:1-13
Proverbs 22:1
Philippians 1:21-24

Matthew 25:45
Proverbs 13:20
Proverbs 27:6
1 Kings 20:11

1 Cor. 3:18-21
Colossians 2:2-3
James 1:5



Week 18: Sober-Minded Vapor Management *Ecclesiastes 7:1-13*

We are in week 18 of the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes. The writer of Ecclesiastes continues to return to the idea of satisfaction within our lives and how that can actually happen.

**From where do you think satisfaction comes from in life?
Have you ever met or seen someone who is truly satisfied in life?**

Satisfaction does not occur because we have enough stuff; it occurs when we find ourselves and our identity in God Himself. The word secular comes from the Latin word, *saeculum*, which means “the now” or a piece of time. It is how Solomon in Ecclesiastes speaks of understanding -- if this life “under the sun” is the only life that is real, then all of it is meaningless. The best commentators agree that the purpose of Ecclesiastes is to express when we identify with the man-made things in this world (with no God involved), in the end, life becomes entirely devoid of meaning and purpose.

Have you ever seen someone try the same thing over and over again thinking it would turn out differently? (Whether it was a relationship, or business venture or a job?) What happened?

Solomon wants us to understand that there is good news -- that there is a God. He is a personal God and cares about His creation -- that there is more in life than what is “under the sun.”

Read Ecclesiastes 7:1-13.

Solomon starts to make comparisons in order to show what discernment looks like when making life choices. He talks about reputation and how wisdom helps us create a good name.

**Would you say you have the “Characteristics of Christ”?
Are you known as cheerful or critical?
Are you known for speaking the absolute truth or coming up with stories that are hard to believe?
Are you generous or stingy with what you have?**

Ecclesiastes 7 reminds us that the purpose of a good name is not just for ourselves, but to glorify God. Solomon says that remembering to mourn and be somber when it is proper will teach us to reflect properly on the life God has given us. He says that wise people appreciate friends who love them enough to rebuke their sins; whereas fools tend to choose to run in herds where upon they tell each other how great they are to make each other feel good.

What is something that you think Christians would do well to remember in their daily life that you think they forget most of the time?

Many times we don't know our character until hard times come and reveal what we actually believe. Wise people will think about what hard times will reveal about themselves, not in a self-centered or frivolous way, but in a way that represents God well.

Who would people say God is, or what God is like, based upon your life (as it is meant to be a reflection of who God is)?

Solomon will end the section today by talking about God because that is where all discussions must go when we have a sober reflection. *“Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, “He catches the wise in their craftiness,” and again, “The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.”* So let no one boast in men” (1 Cor 3:18-21, ESV).

**What do you boast about?
Do you feel like you always need to “one-up” other people?
Whose wisdom do you trust, yours or God's?**

Everyone is, in varying degrees, foolish and needs wisdom. People want joy, but there is no joy without wisdom; just as how there is no wisdom without Jesus, and there is no Jesus without repentance from our folly. Fortunately, Jesus has died to forgive us and give us wisdom if we seek it from Him.