

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

TODAY at 12:30pm
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 19: Circumstances of Vapor Ecclesiastes 7:14-19

TODAY'S VERSES:

Ecclesiastes 7:13
Ecclesiastes 7:14-20

1 Corinthians 3:18-19
Colossians 2:2-3



Week 19: Circumstances of Vapor

Ecclesiastes 7:14-19

We are in week 19 of our sermon series on the book Ecclesiastes. We have one more week of Ecclesiastes and then we will be taking a short break for the summer. We will return to finish the book in September. This week we will take a look at blessings and sufferings and how our belief about those things dictate how we respond to God, others, and ourselves.

What has been the best time in your life since you started following Jesus?

What has been the hardest time in your life since you have followed Jesus?

Have any circumstances ever led you to question or to “walk away” from God?

Solomon talks about how wisdom comes from God, but he understands that wisdom in and of itself will not spare people from suffering. Wisdom can and will allow people to respond well to situations instead of being made worse by our initial reactions.

Read this out loud: Ecclesiastes 7:15-20 *“In my vain life I have seen everything. There is a righteous man who perishes in his righteousness, and there is a wicked man who prolongs his life in his evil doings? Be not overly righteous, and do not make yourself too wise. Why should you destroy yourself? Be not overly wicked, neither be a fool. Why should you die before your time? It is good that you should take hold of this, and from that withhold not your hand, for the one who fears God shall come out from both of them. Wisdom gives strength to the wise man more than ten rulers who are in a city. Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins.”*

Discuss the passage.

Solomon starts to push us toward a vision of reality in a life that isn't centered “under the sun;” the place where we don't have to have the answer to everything because Jesus is the answer! We don't have to

be self-righteous and judgmental about things we don't understand because Jesus is the final Judge. This means we get to offer grace. Many times people who don't live in wisdom will feel the need to correct everyone according to their own judgment and cease to trust God and the leading of His Spirit.

How can you be moderate in wisdom and folly without watering down the message of the Gospel?

What does that mean?

Aaron, in his message, spoke about this idea of “Karma Theology,” which essentially means good things happen to good people and bad things happen to bad people. Whether we realize it or not, many of us tend to fall into this mindset.

Do you believe this to be true?

Why or why not? (Aaron will not be offended if you disagree with him.)

When suffering happens to you, how do you respond?

What do you believe is the reason for the suffering?

The key to wisdom, according to Solomon and the Wisdom Literature, is to trust God for every day, not just the days that we think meet our standard definition of “good.” We must understand that with God, some things that look like a bad day can actually be the best day because of His grace given to us; it can change our perspective on what true wisdom looks like.

What is wisdom? What is folly?

The Good news of the Gospel is that Jesus meets us exactly where we are; He knows us, and we don't have to pretend to have everything in life figured out because He --Himself-- is the answer. True wisdom is found in those who have surrendered their lives to the saving grace of God. We have all fallen short, we have all run from God, we have all thought we would do it better if we were God, but Jesus comes to us in our brokenness to save us.

How does an understanding of wisdom and folly lead you to respond to people?