

THANK YOU FOR
JOINING US TODAY!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

CONNECT PARTY

July 7th, 5:00pm

Appetizers and Desserts Provided.

Looking to connect with others? Get to know key leadership of Element and learn a little about our way of doing ministry. Whether you are new to Element, or been around for a while, you are invited to our Summer Connect Party.

RSVP at the Welcome Center or by emailing connect@ourelement.org for directions.

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.

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.


Join Our Weekly Email Update

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Week 20: The Vapor of Who We Are Ecclesiastes 7:20-29

TODAY'S VERSES:

Ecclesiastes 7:25
Ecclesiastes 7:20-29
1 Kings 11:1-8
Psalm 45

Proverbs 31
Luke 8
Romans 3:10
Romans 3:21-26



Week 20: The Vapor of Who We Are

Ecclesiastes 7:20-29

This is our 20th week in our series through the book of Ecclesiastes. After today we will take a break from the book for the remainder of the summer and start back up in the fall; you could call this our intermission as people go on vacations. Ecclesiastes is a book that is centered on understanding true wisdom in life circumstances, “under the sun,” so we would remember that there is more than just life “under the sun.”

Ecclesiastes 7:25 - “I turned my heart to know and to search out and to seek wisdom and the scheme of things, and to know the wickedness of folly and the foolishness that is madness.”

The theme of this week is that there is no man or woman on earth who is wholly and completely righteous. No one has ever been righteous on their own merit except for Jesus. Solomon is reminding us that wisdom is found in being honest enough to acknowledge that we all have failures; these failures should point us and remind us of our continuing need for Jesus.

Do you try and present yourself as more put together than you really are?

Why or why not?

Previous to the coming of Jesus, the Pharisees had a stellar reputation as the most virtuous, holy men of their day. People aspired to be like them and followed their very long list of man-made rules, never realizing that even the Pharisees were dead and lost in their sins. Jesus attacked the religious leader’s lack of righteousness by exposing their hearts.

When was the last time you felt more righteous than someone else?

Is self-righteousness a struggle for you?

If you have been a Christian any length of time you know how self-righteous anyone can be, especially followers of Jesus. It is why when

speaking about wisdom about not becoming self-righteous, Solomon points us back to reality.

Read Ecclesiastes 7:20.

How do you relate this verse to your own life?

Wisdom is found in those who are honest about their own failings because it reminds us we all need Jesus. At the end of chapter 7 Solomon tries to get us to not take ourselves too seriously because our lives are not our own and are ultimately not in our own hands.

Read Ecclesiastes 7:20-29.

If we really believed that we are not righteous on our own, how do you think that would change our lives?

Through 20 weeks of Ecclesiastes the question of the meaning of life has come up in nearly every section of the book. Solomon addresses how various people (himself included) have attempted to find meaning apart from God resulting in failure. Humanity runs toward things like sex, pleasure, work, hobbies, leisure, intelligence, and even religion to find meaning apart from God.

Where do you try and find meaning apart from God?

What do you believe you are ‘missing’ in life?

What is the thing that you have said, “if I only had this _____ , then I would feel satisfied?”

Solomon ends chapter 7, and we end our first part of Ecclesiastes, with these words: 7:29 *“See, this alone I found, that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes.”* If we don’t try to look for reasons to discount Solomon words, but actually try to understand what he is saying, we can see that there are areas of our life that this has always been true. Our schemes go all the way back to Adam in the garden who tried to do life apart from God. One of the themes you see in the Bible is that everyone after Adam are still trying to find schemes to do life apart from God. This has been what Solomon points out in showing that it doesn’t work.

How can we acknowledge our failures but not live in a place of shame?