

THANK YOU FOR
JOINING US TODAY!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Gospel Class

8 week class that goes through basic Doctrine in Christianity and what Element believes specifically. Starts TODAY at 1pm. Childcare is available.

Questions, email info@ourelement.org

POSTPONED:

Parenting Through The Ages:

A Parenting Seminar

Our 2 day seminar has been postponed to October 11-12th.

We will explore each of the developmental phases, what your kids need during that phase and how parenting changes to accommodate those needs.

Cost is \$25 and there will be childcare provided for those who sign up prior to weekend.

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

Sign up using a Connect Card located under the seat in front of you or by going to ourelement.org.

Follow Us Online

 www.ourelement.org

 info@ourelement.org

  [@ourelement](https://www.facebook.com/ourelement)

Ecclesiastes

The Existential Hangover



Week 22: Hope in More Than Vapor

Ecclesiastes 8:10-13

TODAY'S VERSES:

Ecclesiastes 8:10-13

Ecclesiastes 8:9

Psalms 73:3-5

Exodus 34:6

Romans 2:4

Romans 3:23

1 John 1:8-10

1 John 2:1-2

Week 22: Hope in More Than Vapor

Ecclesiastes 8:10-13

This is the second part of Element's look at the book of Ecclesiastes. The series title is "The Existential Hangover" because the word 'existential' philosophically is concerned with human existence. The book of Ecclesiastes deals with the questions of our lives and what we put our time and energy into and then asks, "now what?" The book is about the headache that comes from getting everything you thought you ever wanted under the sun and then realizing it doesn't fulfill you because it is all temporary. Ecclesiastes is meant to be advice on real, practical, everyday living and to lift up an ideology that looks beyond this mortal shell to what goes on into eternity.

Who specifically have you placed on a pedestal (level of perfection) only to be let down by their actions?

Thomas Sowell, an American economist and social theorist, explains the differences in ideologies that have effected our culture for the last 200 years. He defines the two visions as "constrained" and "unconstrained."

- The constrained vision sees human nature as basically selfish and sinful; those holding this position place their hope in constraining our sin through the laws of the land.
- The unconstrained vision perceives the human condition as "basically good" and capable of possible perfection in this life. Perfection can be achieved through social institutions designed to prevent or cure the ills of the world.

Can you give examples of Thomas Sowell's two vision theory: constrained vs. unconstrained?

Which of the two visions do you subscribe to?

Describe the biblical worldview of the "problem" and "solution."

What is sin and how does it affect us as individuals, us as a people, and our institutions/systems?

Solomon encourages us not to look down in despair at man's many failures, but to look up in faith, realizing that God is in control of all things, even when we don't always know exactly what He's up to.

Read Ecclesiastes 8:10-13.

What happens when you attend a funeral?

Do you walk away holding tighter to what is truly important?

All things will end up the way God wants it to, but in the middle it doesn't always look so good. Jesus Himself was abandoned and betrayed, yet it ended up as salvation for all of us. Solomon is showing, in his view, that when people operate in unrighteousness, they are taking advantage of God's mercy. The reason God does not throw thunderbolts from the sky is because of the the good news that He is patient; it has nothing to do with us. God is the one that is "slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love." God is a loving God who gives us time to repent; who calls us to return to Him. The delays that God takes is meant to lead us to a humbleness centered in His grace.

Who do you know that has purposely walked away from faith because that is how they chose to live their life (as discussed in the message)?

In what ways have you made an excuse for your immorality?

What is justice? How is God a God of justice? Is that fair?

Do you normally look only at God's grace without considering His Justice?

For those who love Jesus we have a confidence before God Himself, a confidence that is born from the work of Jesus. We don't hope we are forgiven, we know it, because our standing before God has nothing to do with our worthiness, but the worthiness of JESUS who stands in our place. He was forsaken that we may be brought in, this is why there is only ONE hope for a sinful people, and it is Jesus....and this is what Solomon longed for.

Who are the good guys? Who are the bad guys?

Why do good things happen to anybody?

What do you rely more on: your goodness or Jesus' righteousness?

What do you rely more on: your worthiness or Jesus' substitution?

Why is Jesus the only hope for sinful people?

What should change in your heart if you truly believe that?

Who do you need to share that hope with?