

THANK YOU FOR
JOINING US TODAY!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Parenting Through The Ages:

A Parenting Seminar

Our 2 day seminar is Friday, October 11th from 6-9 pm and Saturday, October 12th from 9-2pm.

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 the weekend.

Pumpkin Killing!

Join us Sunday, October 27th from 1:30-4pm at Orcutt Hill Picnic Grounds for pumpkin carving, launching and eating. All are welcome, no sign ups.

Watch previous year's recap videos at ourelement.org/pk

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.

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Ecclesiastes

The Existential Hangover



Week 24: Life In The Midst Of Vapor

Ecclesiastes 9:1-10

TODAY'S VERSES:

Ecclesiastes 9:3
Ecclesiastes 8:8
Ecclesiastes 9:1-10

Matthew 5:45
1 Samuel 17:3
Proverbs 12:4

Week 24: Life In The Midst Of Vapor

Ecclesiastes 9:1-10

In Ecclesiastes we are following Solomon's quest to find the meaning of life, the more he looked into the things around him the more he struggled to make sense of his world. Solomon was like someone who chased the sun and no matter how far he ran the sun was still the same distance away. The early church father Augustine summarized Ecclesiastes' message like this: *"Solomon gives over the entire book of Ecclesiastes to suggesting, with such fullness as he judged adequate, the emptiness of this life, with the ultimate objective, to be sure, of making us yearn for another kind of life which is no unsubstantial shadow under the sun, but substantial reality under the sun's Creator."*

What things in your life do you question and don't have a "good" answer for?

Have you ever felt God has failed you or let you down?

How do you struggle to trust God with questions to which you don't have answers to?

What do your feelings in these moments tell you about who you believe God to be?

Solomon is giving us a God-centered perspective that every day of our life is meant to be seen as a gift from God.

Do you know anybody who lives life in a way where they see that everything in life is a gift from God? What characteristics do they portray? How do they respond to difficult questions?

What hard areas of your life do you view as a gift from God?

God is the one who brings joy whereas we are the ones who mess it up. Contrasting life under the sun verses life that God brings, Solomon wants us to understand that what comes our way has first passed through the hands of God. In other words, when we can trust God in the midst of whatever comes our way, we will grow. Our future can be uncertain at times, but if we have faith, we can be certain of who holds the future. We are not always privy to the exact details of His plans, and wisdom does not guarantee that life will be without tears, but trusting God ensures that our tears are meaningful.

How does having a healthy perspective of our limited time on earth change how we live?

What things under the sun do you place your hope into in order to bring satisfaction in your life?

What things do you need to appreciate more and slow down to enjoy?

What things do you need to hurry up and do?

Solomon uses the words of Chapter 9 to steer us towards the great leveler of life: death. He then reminds us that even the memory of loved ones who have died will eventually fade, which is meant to make us look at the current course of our lives and ask if what we are pursuing is worth our eternity. Is what we are wasting our life on worth it? God has got a better way.

Is death a topic you avoid thinking/talking about?

What loss have you dealt with in life?

Why did Aaron say that we hate death because we are not built for it?

Because God is in control of this life and the life to come, truly living shows we actually love and trust God. Many people today become obsessed with controlling every factor around them, thinking things are under our dominion and control. Solomon's words are meant to sober us and say, "We can't truly control anything."

Read Ecclesiastes 9:1-9.

Do you feel secure that God has your whole life in His hands?

Is that something you even want?

The wisdom of understanding life and death comes down to whose hands our lives are in: God's or our own. If we are a finite people then we must center our lives on the good news of Jesus' rescue of us. We repent of our sin (turn away from it, back to God) and believe in Jesus Christ for His great salvation of us. Only by understanding the great truth of the gospel will we serve each other and enjoy the good life that God has given to us. CS Lewis said our earthly pleasures are telling us that we were made for another world.

How does sin lead to death?

How can we lovingly communicate this to our friends/coworkers who need to hear that we are all the problem in life?

What is God's plan for us to go from death (sin) to life (righteousness)?