

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 NEXT SUNDAY, September 15th at 1pm.

Childcare is available - please sign up at the Welcome Center today.

Questions, email info@ourelement.org

Parenting Through The Ages:

A Parenting Seminar

Join us Friday, September 20th from 6p-9p and Saturday, September 21st from 9a-2p for a 2 day seminar.

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.

Women's Bible Study

This Wednesday we begin our fall study which will be Nancy Leigh DeMoss's book, Choosing Forgiveness.


Sign up at the Welcome Center, purchase book and read first chapter for our first meeting.


Childcare is available. Email women@ourelement.org for more information.



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 21: Transformation Instead of Vapor *Ecclesiastes 8:1-9*

TODAY'S VERSES:

Ecclesiastes 1:1-2
Ecclesiastes 1:8
Ecclesiastes 7:29
Ecclesiastes 7:25
Ecclesiastes 8:1-9

1 Thess. 5:16-18
Nehemiah 8:10
Psalm 34:5
Numbers 6:25

Week 21: Transformation Instead of Vapor *Ecclesiastes 8:1-9*

Welcome back to the book of Ecclesiastes. We spent the first part of this year going through this philosophical Old Testament book that centers itself on questions of life, wisdom, and God. The author of Ecclesiastes is King Solomon who is constantly asking questions about where our focus lies: on things “under the sun” (meaning the realm which we create) or the eternal.

Can someone give an overview of Ecclesiastes so far?

What in your life is meaningless?

Solomon will use the words “Yet when I surveyed” to push us to face, with brutal honest self-examination, what life without God is truly like. This is why we called the series “The Existential Hangover.” The word “existential” relates to existence; the big question of the book being NOW WHAT? I had it all, bought it all, did it all, accomplished it all and now what? The writer of the book “had it all” in the realm of the created and says “I now want to tell about that which exists beyond the realm of what we create.”

What things have you created that you thought would last and have fallen apart?

When speaking about God, the writer of Ecclesiastes refers to Him as being UNCREATED, not bound to “under the sun.” The book of Ecclesiastes is a book that keeps coming back to man’s pursuit of life apart from God and how it always devolves into being meaningless. He speaks of how we seek and run after our own wisdom which often leads to ruin and despair, yet when we trust God to lead us to wisdom He leads us to life.

What is the difference between false wisdom and true wisdom?

Which type of wisdom do you possess (false or true wisdom)?

If you are willing, ask others if they see pride or humility in you.

Today in Ecclesiastes Solomon talks about how wisdom appears as it is lived out in practical ways. He will speak about our commitments, our jobs, and how we live in wisdom as we work our responsibilities.

He will speak about how we respect those in authority, and how we respond to things we disagree with; how we weigh our choices, and that even when we make a plan, its outcome usually ends up beyond our control.

What is a commitment?

What commitments have you made in your life?

What frustrations arose from those commitments?

What commitments have you broken?

When we follow Jesus we will always run up against “earthly” wisdom that stands counter to what Jesus calls us to. The troubles and frustrations of life are many (a fact which Solomon often reminds us of.) We do not know what the future will bring, but we know who holds the future. This brings Solomon to speak about the biggest uncertainty of all: death. He will speak of how things come up that we don’t anticipate, that we don’t have control over the wind or over our death.

Read Ecclesiastes 8:1-9.

What things are in and beyond your control?

We are called to remember Jesus in all things because that reminder changes everything. Jesus brought righteousness and truth in a way that continues to bring change that has been affecting the world for over two millennia. We can realize that what looked like defeat to everyone else, Jesus’ death, was actually our greatest triumph because it brought about the forgiveness of our many sins. Jesus, in calling people to repentance, provides the way for that repentance and renewed life by His death and resurrection. This means we can face people in authority with grace, peace, and truth as well. All that Solomon looks at, and seems to despair over, can actually be ways that we get to spread the message of the good news of Jesus.

Have you experienced Christ’s transformation in your life?

Have you seen it in others?

How is God making your face shine?

Who is someone who needs to hear from you this week that you could encourage to help them have this kind of joy in their face/life?