

- Qoheleth investigates this life...
- Qoheleth is probably a (Title of teacher - Leader of the assembly).

- Purpose of Ecclesiastes (Why we include in the Bible).
Book is focusing on God's part. Everything is in God's hands.
- All time / All Seasons / All Our acquired Things & Stuff...
- Ultimately they are all in God's hands.

Qoheleth discerns through investigation:

- Power, wisdom, possessions are things men work for...But
- None of these things are permanent or enduring (Like the wind/breath).
- Rest / Eat / Drink / Be Merry / Like the wind / They too, shall pass away.

- He teaches that Everything is VANITY except God – God is not a fool.
- In despair Qoheleth does not reject God (retains humility).

Luke's Gospel: Share your stuff / Don't be greedy /

- Eccl & Luke remind us: (Nothing is left over from each generation) / We acquire wealth / For what ends / What will become of it when we're gone?
- It's a never-ending cycle – in the end, what do we gain from our labors?

This is the problem with Materialism and Scientism...VANITY / VANITY.

- Everything is worthless because you can't take it with you.
(Our STUFF will not give us that lasting deep contentment).
And science cannot answer the deeper longings of the human heart).

- We desire Love, Purpose, Acceptance, Communion, Dignity, Worth.
Movie Contact: Love is "like the wind" Can't see it, but you know it is there.
- Just because Science can't measure God nor Love doesn't mean they don't exist.

-Wealth isn't evil / The key is: Do we worship wealth? / Do we see wealth / Money / The Stuff as OUR END / Our Happiness / Honor it before God? / If yes / it becomes Vanity" / This is the problem with materialism.

- Qoheleth recognizes the vanity of laboring, toiling, and acquiring. It is an expression of what life would be like apart from the presence of God.
- Without God (Sorrow, grief, restlessness would seem to be all there is).

-Qoheleth doesn't give into despair? The author simply follows materialism to its logical end, which is emptiness, sorrow, and grief.

In the end: -The key to living a good life is to recognize God's presence.

-Recognizing God changes the orientation of one's life.

-Without God & Sacrificial love (this is a cold, dark world).

-With God / We have Love / Purpose / Direction.

-If the stuff is our end / Vanity leading to emptiness (Puff of Stardust).

-My Adult Conversation

-Jobs and acquiring things for their own sake led to frustration and emptiness / They were my end / Not God / Thus, I was miserable.

-I will never forget (The field & the beauty of the Heavens).

-When I said yes and returned to Jesus' loving embrace.

-When I called and told my mother I returned to Jesus and the Faith.

-The soul is restless until it rest in God!

Yet in our 2nd Reading: ST PAUL speaks of Baptism (on things above).

-If you were raised with Christ, seek what is above,

-The mark I received at Baptism is permanent / Forever.

-My bike at Christmas / my favorites cars / Where are they today?

For believers in Jesus: Death is just the beginning of Eternity!

-And as of today: The Mass / Eucharist / Confession / Adoration / Prayer / Bible / Virtue / Faith / Love - These are the treasures of Heaven / They do not pass away / AND SHARING OUR MATERIAL WEALTH (& All the above) leads us to our true end / (God, Heaven, Beatitude and Happiness).

-With our eyes set on God (We can enjoy the stuff / Because Beatitude, Self-Sacrifice & Virtuous Living leads us to (God: WHO IS OUR END).
Happiness

Amen

As an aside (I added this quote as humor)

C.S. Lewis reminds us in the words of his demon Screwtape, the notion that we humans create our own meaning, own our own bodies, and command our own destinies "is equally funny in heaven and in hell." We're not gods, and we all die. No exceptions. (Sounds like Ecclesiastes).