

life is short.

A Study from Ecclesiastes

Sunday, October 21, 2018 | Wawasee Community Bible Church | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

PART 2: LIVE FOR ETERNITY

Ecclesiastes 3:11; 1:12-18; 2:1-26

Eternity

*He has planted eternity in the human heart,
but even so, people cannot see the whole scope
of God's work from beginning to end.*

– Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NLT)

Every pursuit **UNDER THE SUN** is meaningless:
v. 1:12-18

*I observed everything going on **under the sun,***

*and really, it is all meaningless
–like **chasing the wind.** (v. 1:14)*

wisdom, pleasure, work — it's all **FLEETING**
and folly.

Ecclesiastes 2:1-23

pleasure (2:1-11)

wisdom (2:12-17)

work/toil (2:18-23)

We must play the **LONG** game: enjoy life now
—but live for **ETERNITY**.

Ecclesiastes 2:24-26; 3:11

if we do this,

everything has meaning

— *even all that takes place under the sun!*

*"So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do,
do it all for the glory of God."*

— 1 Corinthians 10:31 (NLT)

1:10 COMMUNITY GROUP **HOMEWORK**

GETTING STARTED

1. Answer one or a couple of the following to get to know one another better: What crazy stunt in high school are you remember for? What creative science project do you remember from those days? What material goods are on your all-time wish list?
2. **Read Ecclesiastes 3:11. If you're up for it, read 1:12 through 2:26 as well!** Review your message notes. What stood out to you from the message this week? Do you have questions? Disagreements? Discuss it with your group.

DIGGING DEEPER

3. **Read Ecclesiastes 2:1-3.** What paradox does Solomon find in hedonism?
4. What do these key phrases tell you about the perspective of this passage:
 - *"during their brief life in this world"* – **v. 2:3**
 - *"under the sun"* – **v. 2:11**
 - *"in the days to come"* – **v. 2:16**
5. **Look at 2:4-8.** What are some of the great projects that Solomon undertakes? What desires were they meant to satisfy?
6. During all of this, what is Solomon's relationship with wisdom? (**v. 3, 9, 12-13**)
7. How is light better than darkness? What does this say about the differences between wisdom and folly?
8. Why is Solomon so unhappy with what many would call success?

UP CLOSE

9. What is the most important project you have undertaken in the last year? How do you measure your success in that?
10. In Ecclesiastes 7:4 Solomon says, "**A wise person thinks a lot about death, while a fool thinks only about having a good time.**" (NLT) Do you think much about death? Do you regard death as the final tragedy or the final triumph? Is the death of the fool different from that of the wise? How can you prepare yourself for death?
11. How does a book like Ecclesiastes help you focus on the truly important things in life? What are they?

Some of this week's questions taken from the Serendipity Study Bible, pg 932, ©1996 Zondervan

Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, and live life together. We call them 1:10 Community Groups (the "1:10" comes from Colossians 1:10). The questions here are based on the sermon each week, and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a 1:10 Group, let us know on the Connect Card in your bulletin.

*During your prayer time this week, let's all be praying together about the following items.
Use the space at the bottom to record your personal prayer items, or requests from your 1:10 Group.*

Neighboring Church

Pray this week for the ministry and people of the Milford Apostolic Christian Church.

Personal Prayer Items

Word Find for Ecclesiastes 2:12-17 (NLT)

Find the words **bolded** below.

¹²So I **decided** to **compare wisdom** with **foolishness** and **madness** (for who can do this **better** than I, the **king?**). ¹³I **thought**, "**Wisdom** is **better** than **foolishness**, just as **light** is **better** than **darkness**. ¹⁴For the **wise** can see where they are **going**, but **fools** walk in the **dark**." Yet I

saw that the **wise** and the **foolish share** the **same fate**.

¹⁵**Both** will die. So I **said** to myself, "Since I will end up the **same** as the **fool**, what's the **value** of all my **wisdom**? This is all so **meaningless!**" ¹⁶For the **wise** and the **foolish both** die. The **wise** will not be **remembered** any **longer** than the **fool**. In the **days to come**, **both** will be **forgotten**. ¹⁷So I came to hate life because **everything** done here under the sun is so troubling.

Everything is **meaningless**—like chasing the wind.

P	D	E	C	I	D	E	D	S	G	A	A	F
V	H	T	N	B	C	V	A	H	T	E	L	O
A	F	B	E	T	T	E	R	A	H	C	V	O
L	O	N	G	E	R	R	K	R	O	B	I	L
U	R	L	C	D	A	Y	S	E	U	S	E	E
E	G	L	I	G	H	T	A	M	G	J	S	M
F	O	O	L	I	S	H	I	E	H	U	S	F
C	T	V	M	G	K	I	D	M	T	S	C	S
O	T	R	G	O	I	N	G	B	O	T	H	B
M	E	A	N	I	N	G	L	E	S	S	L	G
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L	C	C	O	M	P	A	R	E	F	A	T	E
B	W	I	S	D	O	M	A	D	N	E	S	S
G	V	V	W	I	S	E	H	T	U	M	V	V