

Series: Ecclesiastes

Sermon: Vanity of Vanities

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 1:1-9, 14

Teacher: Eric Ryan

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Ecclesiastes 1:1-9, 14 (ESV)

¹ *The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.*

² *Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher,
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.*

³ *What does man gain by all the toil
at which he toils under the sun?*

⁴ *A generation goes, and a generation comes,
but the earth remains forever.*

⁵ *The sun rises, and the sun goes down,
and hastens to the place where it rises.*

⁶ *The wind blows to the south
and goes around to the north;
around and around goes the wind,
and on its circuits the wind returns.*

⁷ *All streams run to the sea,
but the sea is not full;
to the place where the streams flow,
there they flow again.*

⁸ *All things are full of weariness;
a man cannot utter it;
the eye is not satisfied with seeing,
nor the ear filled with hearing.*

⁹ *What has been is what will be,
and what has been done is what will be done,
and there is nothing new under the sun.*

¹⁴ *I have seen everything that is done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and a
striving after wind.*

Part 1: The Book

Part 2: The Vanity

Part 3: The Hope

You Are Not Your Own, Alan Noble

“But we don’t live in a rightly ordered and just society and we should not expect that fact to change any time soon. Instead, we must “wait without hope,” as T. S. Eliot says...

But the hope Eliot tells his readers to wait without is false hope: a hope that demands results, an impatient hope, a hope that is pragmatic, a hope that rushes to action, a hope that cannot be still and know that God is God. This false hope naturally leads to bitterness.

When we are convinced that we have the plan for redeeming the world and that we are the agents of that redemption (whether it be spiritual or political or physical), we won’t have grace for those who aren’t part of our movement or who aren’t doing enough. The inadequacies of others become intolerable because redemption is just around the corner if those people would just get on board.”

Ecclesiastes 12:13 (ESV)

¹³ The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (ESV)

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

Part 4: The Series