



WEEK 2

STUDY GUIDE

BY: PASTOR WALTER DORT

AUGUST 29–SEPTEMBER 2, 2022



Monday, August 29, 2022

Read: 1:2, 2:1-11; John 7:37-39

Scripture Verse: *“Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher. “Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.” Ecclesiastes 1:2*

Today's Thought:

The author of this book draws our attention to the meaninglessness of every perishable thing on this earth. So often, we find ourselves striving for things of this world because we think we can find satisfaction and meaning for our life in them.. Often, we believe that wealth and pleasures of this world can bring happiness and give more sense to our life. Sometimes there are people who summarize their existence in pleasure, eating, drinking and being merry because tomorrow they will die, as if they have no account to render to the owner of their life. Look at what the author of this book said: *“You who are young, be happy while you are young, and let your heart give you joy in the days of your youth. Follow the ways of your heart and whatever your eyes see **but know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment.**”* Ecclesiastes 11:9. In light of this verse, why are we here? What is our purpose? What will be our fate in the end? These are questions you must ask yourself and for which you must find a favorable answer for your life.

All that the world offers us without the Lord is vain and futile and it will take us nowhere. We are here not to love the world, not to please the world, because it cannot offer us what can satisfy our spirit and soul. What the world offers us is: The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, things that can pass away. Even Solomon in all his splendor, wealth, wives, and pleasure said: *“Meaningless! Meaningless!” “Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.”* We are right to flee the evil desires of the world and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace that we can find in Jesus Christ alone. It is time to seek our God instead of chasing the vain things and empty on earth. *“Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near.”* Isaiah 55:6

A life without Jesus is a meaningless and futile life, for in him we live and move and have our being. Despite all accomplishments, power, and wealth you can have, if Christ is not in your life it means nothing. *“What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? For the Son of Man*

is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done." Matthew 16:26-27.

God created us for a special purpose, and we should live out the purpose for which we were created. The purpose of our existence is to look like Jesus his Son and glorify him as our creator and the giver of everything we have. We should delight and rejoice in the Lord not in the stuff he gives us. *"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!"* Philippians 4:4. Young men and women, adults and children let us praise the Lord we were created for this purpose.

Thank you, Lord, for your word. Thank you for not leaving me to guess why you created me. Thank you for revealing to me that you created me to glorify you and to look like Jesus your Son. Dear Lord, help me to live out the purpose for which I was created. Help me to delight and rejoice in you, not in the stuff you give me.

- What do people of this world think of life?
- What does the world offer us?
- What will life be like after death?
- How is life without Christ?
- What is the purpose of our existence?

Further Reading: Psalm 148:11-14

Tuesday, August 30, 2022

Read: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 2:1-11; John 7:37-39

Scripture Verse: *"I said to myself, "Come now, I will test you with pleasure to find out what is good." But that also proved to be meaningless." Ecclesiastes 2:1*

Today's Thought:

As we have seen previously, the author of the book of Ecclesiastes shows us life without God is completely futile and meaningless. We have seen that pleasure, wisdom, power, entertainment and wealth are futile and meaningless when God is out of the circle of our life. At this point, we deviate from the true purpose of our existence and our life becomes meaningless. What makes life worth living? Wealth? Pleasure? Entertainment?

King Solomon had tried everything he knew, like pleasure and entertainment, to find joy, happiness and peace as if he had a pit in his life that he wanted to fill. In the end he realized that all is meaningless. In his time, he was one of the wealthiest men on earth, he lived an abundant life. Materially he lacked nothing, so, if anyone could, he could find pleasure and entertainment in his possession; despite everything, however, he found that all is vain and worthless.

So, King Solomon explained his experiences during his kingship, and he concluded by saying that everything is meaningless. Based on Solomon's conclusion, what are your experiences in this world? What are you chasing? What is your conclusion?

Solomon was trying to get satisfaction, pleasure and entertainment in things of this world. *"I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I acquired male and female singers and a harem as well -the delights of a man's heart."* Ecclesiastes 2:8. But he still had a gap to fill. The desires of the hearts of men in his day were not totally different from ours today. Our time is more sophisticated because of technology, but it's still the same reality.

In view of the fallen world where we are living, we can say true joy, happiness, and satisfaction is impossible to find in the things of this world. So, instead of wasting our life and time seeking joy, happiness, and satisfaction which the things of this world cannot really bring, let us rejoice in

the Lord and take pleasure in his word. Trying to find fulfillment through things of this world can bring dissatisfaction, desolation, sadness, and depression, but the fulfillment in the word of God brings love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Father God, thank you so much for your word today. I am living in a fallen world, help me to cling to you and your Son Jesus Christ. Keep me from chasing after pleasure, entertainment of this world. Knowing you and your Son Jesus Christ is all I want because things of this world do not last. Take complete control of my life and help me to find my fulfillment in your word so that my joy will be perfect.

- What makes you worth living?
- King Solomon materially lacked nothing. He tried everything he knew to find happiness, but he found that all was vanity. What do you think is most important in life?
- What are you chasing?
- What is your conclusion?
- What does the fulfillment in the word of God bring?

Further Reading: Psalms 1:1-6

Wednesday, August 31, 2022

Read: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 2:1-11; John 7:37-39

Scripture Verse: *"Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun." Ecclesiastes 2:11*

Today's Thought:

In verse 11 we see that Solomon was going into a deep reflection of all his accomplishments. His power and authority, riches and pleasures, everything was like wind. As if he put everything in a balance, the resulting weight seemed nil and insignificant. This does not mean that he has badly acquired his wealth and goods. It is obvious the goods of this world are transient; they only have a short duration. Moreover, we are ahead of them all. As the psalmist so aptly said: *"All our days pass away under your wrath; we finish our years with a moan. Our days may come to seventy years, or eighty, if our strength endures; yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and they fly away ... Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom"* Psalms 90:9-12."

Our days are numbered, and we must apply our heart to wisdom, we must seek the wisdom of God and the things above. We must not be fond of things that are on earth. We must set our mind on things above, not on earthly things. Of course, we need them, but they should not be the object of our heart and thoughts, we must not live for them. They should not control us or have any influence on us or on our relationship with God our creator. Letting ourselves be controlled by what God has given us is an offense to God our creator and it is even forgetting the reason for which he created us.

God has provided us riches which should be used wisely and put at his service. Our possessions should not be a stumbling block to our salvation. For nothing in this world is worth the life we find in Jesus Christ. *"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."* Romans 8:38-39. Therefore, our relationship with God should not be negotiable. We must limit our love and affection for things that God has given us for his glory.

"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable -if anything is excellent or praiseworthy -think about such things."
Philippians 4:8.

Heavenly Father, thank you for your word. Help me to set my mind on things above, not on earthly things. Do not let the earthly things be the object of my heart and thoughts. Help me to focus on you, don't let anything of your creation separate me from your love that is in Jesus Christ our Savior.

- After all his experiences, how does Solomon regard the things of this world?
- How did Solomon inspire you?
- What did David say about the days?

Further Reading: James 3:17-18

Thursday, September 1, 2022

Read: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 2:1-11; John 7:37-39

Scripture Verse: *“On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink.” John 7:37*

Today’s Thought:

In chapter 6:35, Jesus presented himself as the true bread of life from heaven. In this chapter, he presented himself as the water of life. Let us talk a little bit about the water in the body. According to Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, France (CNRS):

Water is the main constituent of the human body. The average amount of water contained in an adult organism is 65%, which corresponds approximately 45 liters of water for a person weighing 70 kilograms. The total water content of the human body depends on several factors. It depends on body size: the leaner a person is, the greater the proportion of water in the body. It also depends on age: it decreases over the years, because the older the tissues, the more they become dehydrated, water being replaced by fat. The overall quantity of water necessary for an adult of average size is approximately 2.5 liters per day. In addition to being the essential constituent of cells, water fulfills several functions: It participates in the many chemical reactions, ensures the transit of a certain number of dissolved substances essential to cells, allows the elimination of metabolic, helps to maintain a constant temperature inside the body. The water contents of different organs of an adult human body: brain 76%, lung 78%, heart 79%, stomach intestine 75%, kidney 81%, bones 22.5%, muscle 75%, blood 79%, skin 70%.

So, we can imagine without water in the body someone cannot live. That is why to maintain the body in good health, the water lost must be immediately replaced. Thirst is a mechanism by which the body warns that it wants water, it is in a state of dehydration, and that is why it is not good to wait until you are thirsty to drink.

Jesus, knowing the value and importance of water, cried out and said: *“Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink.”* Jesus invited anyone to come to drink his water. He doesn’t care about our nationality, the life we lived before, but he invited everyone to come and drink. Jesus isn’t talking about the bottled water that we can find at the grocery stores. Jesus was not referring to physical thirst, he was talking about a water

that can help our spiritual life, that can improve the quality of our spiritual life. This water cannot be found anywhere else. Jesus presented himself as the living water. The water that we need to satisfy our soul to maintain a constant spiritual temperature inner our life. Jesus proposed to fill us with his word and his Spirit, thus enabling us to produce fruit in abundance for the glory of God.

When we drink in Jesus, we become a channel for the blessing of others. Jesus died and rose, and he had promised the Holy Spirit. This promise is fulfilled. Christians who accept Jesus Christ and are baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit become the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. In fact, you are the dwelling place of God.

Lord Jesus, I am thirsty for you. Please, bring healing and satisfaction in my thirsty heart and fill my cup until it overflows. You are the only one who can satisfy my soul and maintain my spiritual temperature in good shape. Make me a channel of blessing for others.

- Are you spiritually thirsty?
- Who can quench your thirst?
- Would you invite Jesus to fill your thirst?

Further Reading: John 6:32-35

Friday, September 2, 2022

Read: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 2:1-11; John 7:37-39

Scripture Verse: *“Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them. By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.” John 7:38-39*

Today’s Thought:

In the previous study, we have seen the importance of water in our physical body. Jesus was referring to the water to tell us how his present is important in our spiritual life. He is the only one who can satisfy our soul and maintain our spiritual temperature in good shape. Now we will see that as believers, a special change has been made in our life since we accepted Jesus as Savior.

Those who truly believe in Jesus have received the Holy Spirit as a living water. They are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit because the Spirit of God lives in them. They become the temple of God. *“Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in your midst?” 1 Corinthians 3:16.* The Holy Spirit is God himself living in us and brings healing to our soul. Those who abide in Jesus have the Holy Spirit and he does marvelous things in their lives. *“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” John 15:5.* Holy Spirit waters our dry heart to make it fruitful, he gives and changes life, and brings love, peace, joy, patience, kindness in our heart. He makes our crop abundant.

Without Christ, our lives mean nothing, and our souls are thirsty, looking for satisfaction in drugs, pleasure, entertainment, things that can ruin our lives. Christ is the source of the river of life. He is the only one capable of satisfying the greatest need of our soul which is to restore our relationship with God our creator. When we believe in Christ, we also have this river of life-giving water flow from our lives. When we find Jesus and let the Holy Spirit guide us, our thirst for righteousness, forgiveness, restoration, and purification will be quenched, and our joy will be complete. *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness” 1 John 1:9.* Not only will we be satisfied but also, we become a source of refreshment for others.

Heavenly Father, thank you so much for the Holy Spirit in my life. Thank

you because I am God's temple and the Holy Spirit dwells in me. Please, bring healing to my broken heart. Water my dry soul and make it fruitful. Lead and teach me and guide me and fill me with your wisdom. And make me a source of refreshment to others.

- What happens in our lives when we accept Christ and get baptized? And who do we become?
- What are your thoughts about the Holy Spirit?
- Who can receive the Holy Spirit?
- What does the Holy Spirit bring in our life?

Further Reading: John 15: 7-14

NOTES



centralwired.com