

Ecclesiastes
Gail Arterburn –2025

Monday, 9:30 – 11:00 am
To be discussed – 01/06/25

Lesson 1
Introduction, Eccl 1:1-12

1. Read Eccl. 1:1-12. Why is Solomon generally considered the author of Ecclesiastes?

2. Read 1 Kings 2:1-4. What was David's final charge to Solomon? Read Deut. 17:16-20. What did God require of the kings of Israel?

3. Read 1 Kings 3:7-13. What did Solomon ask of God? What was God's reply?

4. How wise was Solomon? Did he obey either David or God? (1 Kings 10:26-11:1-6)

5. Rather than calling himself by name, he refers to himself as "the Teacher" (or the Preacher in some translations). Whose wisdom was he attempting to teach? (v. 13)

6. Solomon is about at the point of despair. Besides all his wisdom and wealth, how does he describe his life in v. 2?

7. What evidence does he give in verses 3-11 to substantiate that view?

8. Can you think of a time when you felt that way? When life is hard, we may ask similar questions – What is the point? Why am I here? Is this all there is?

9. Have you ever felt like you were stuck in a rut? Your life is not satisfying and you can't see that anything will ever change? We have common expressions very similar to what Solomon was saying – "Everything that goes around, comes around. Nothing is new. History just repeats itself, etc." Is that a problem of faith or circumstances? Why?

10. Ecclesiastes is not just a pessimistic book. Solomon looks for and finds answers to how we can have a meaningful, satisfying life in this broken world in which we live. One of his repetitive phrases, "under the sun", is a clue to his despair. Where was his focus?