

The World Is Broken

Wisdom from Proverbs and Ecclesiastes

Sin Has Reached Us All

- ▶ Ecclesiastes 5:15-16, *"As he came forth from his mother's womb, naked shall he go again as he came, and shall take nothing for his labor, which he may carry away in his hand. And this also is a grievous evil, that in all points as he came, so shall he go: and what profit hath he that he laboreth for the wind?"*
- ▶ Ecclesiastes 6:1, *"There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, and it is heavy upon men"*
- ▶ Ecclesiastes 7:20, *"Surely there is not a righteous man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not."* (cf. Romans 3:9-18, 23)
- ▶ Ecclesiastes 7:14, *"In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider; yea, God hath made the one side by side with the other, to the end that man should not find out anything (that shall be) after him."*

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- ▶ Bad things happen to good people. Ecclesiastes 8:12-14; cf. Job 25:4-6
- ▶ Folly often exists in high places. Ecclesiastes 10:5-7
- ▶ Oppressive acts are committed, and the innocent have no recourse. Ecclesiastes 4:1
- ▶ Justice takes too long, so long in fact that it encourages evil. Ecclesiastes 8:11

What Will NOT Provide Satisfaction

- ▶ No satisfaction in just living. Ecclesiastes 1:2-11
- ▶ No satisfaction in knowledge. Ecclesiastes 1:12-18; cf. 1 Corinthians 1:18ff; Romans 1:20; Acts 17:19-21
- ▶ No satisfaction in wisdom. Ecclesiastes 2:14-16
- ▶ No satisfaction found in pleasure. Ecclesiastes 2:1-11; cf. Luke 8:14
- ▶ No satisfaction found in culture or wealth. 1 Kings 10:27; cf. verse 21; Ecclesiastes 5:10, 19; 6:1-2; cf. 1 Kings 8:62

Things That WILL Provide Satisfaction

- ▶ Good friends and good food. cf. Ecclesiastes 2:24-26; 9:7-8; Proverbs 13:25; Proverbs 20:13; Psalms 37:25
- ▶ Kind words. Proverbs 10:19-20; 12:13-14; 13:3; 15:1; 18:21; 21:23; 25:11; 29:20; 31:26
- ▶ A good wife/ husband. Ecclesiastes 9:9; Proverbs 5:15-19; Hebrews 13:4; Proverbs 31; Proverbs 12:4; 21:9; cf. Matthew 19:9

Things That WILL Provide Satisfaction

- ▶ Live in the present. Ecclesiastes 7:8-9; James 4:13-14; Ephesians 5:16
- ▶ Doing a good job. Ecclesiastes 5:12; 9:10; Colossians 3:23
 - NOTE: Find another line of work or learn to enjoy the work you do.
- ▶ Accept without complaint that "life is not always fair." Ecclesiastes 9:11-12; 3:11; 11:8; Psalms 33:16ff; Philipians 4:13

Jesus Came To Provide Abundant Life

John 10:10, "I came that they may have life, and may have (it) abundantly."

- ▶ No real substance to life here. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14
- ▶ Abundant life is eternal life "*in Christ*." 1 John 5:11-12
- ▶ Love of God makes eternal life "*in Christ*" possible. 1 John 4:9; John 3:16; 5:24; 3:36

Jesus Came To Provide Abundant Life

- ▶ Ultimately, the abundant life is "in Christ."
- ▶ To be "in Christ" is to be born anew. John 3:5

- ▶ Seed brings forth life. 1 Corinthians 15:36
 - Word is the seed of the kingdom. Luke 8:11
 - Life and immortality brought through the gospel. 1 Timothy 1:10
 - Raised to walk in newness of life. Romans 6:3-4

Jesus Came To Provide Abundant Life

- ▶ The abundant life is "*in Christ*."

1 Timothy 4:8, "for bodily exercise is profitable for a little; but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life which now is, and of that which is to come."