

Midweek Bible Study

Exposition of Qoheleth
Challenges to Enjoying the Gift (3)
Ecclesiastes 5:8-20

Ecc. 3:16-5:20

Challenges to God Making Everything Beautiful

- Injustice (3:16-22)
- Oppression (4:1-3)

Challenges to Enjoying Life and Labor as a Gift

- Envy (4:4-6)
- Loneliness (4:7-12)
- Politics (4:13-16)
- Shallow, careless worship (5:1-7)

Graft in High Places (5:8-9)

- A. If you see in a province
1. the oppression of the poor
 2. the violation of justice and righteousness
- B. Do Not Be Amazed at the Matter
- C. For the high official is watched by higher, and there are yet higher ones over them.
- D. Government – necessary evil or corrupt to the top?

But this is gain for a land in every way: a king committed to cultivated fields (ESV)
After all, a king who cultivates the field is an advantage to the land (NAS)

The profit from the land is taken by all; the king is served by the field (CSB)
The produce of the land is seized by all of them, even the king is served by the fields. NET)
The increase from the land is taken by all; the king himself profits from the fields (NIV)

Loving Money (5:10-12)

- A. The side-effects of loving money
1. Never satisfied – this is *hebel*



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2. Attracts leeches
The poor is disliked even by his neighbor, but the rich has many friends. (Pro 14:20 ESV)
Wealth brings many new friends, but a poor man is deserted by his friend. (Pro 19:4 ESV)
3. Insomnia

Hoarding Money and Losing Money (5:13-17)

- A. Grievous evil – a sick evil
- B. Riches lost through a bad investment
- C. Had a son and had nothing to support him
- D. Job 1:21
- E. What is the advantage to him who toils for the wind?
- F. Eating in darkness = misery, isolation, sickness, and anger

The problem wasn't saving or investing – the problem was thinking it secured the future.
1 Tim. 6:17; Prov. 23:4-5

Recall the Remedy (5:18-20)

2:24; 3:12-14, 22, and now again.

- A. Good and beautiful to eat, drink, enjoy yourself in all your labor, in which you toil under the sun, during the few years of life which God has given, for this is his reward (18)
- B. The Gift of Being Able to Enjoy the Gift (19)
- C. For he will not much remember the days of his life because God keeps him occupied with joy in his heart. (20)

“The Blessedness of Possessing Nothing.”

