

Reality Check in Ecclesiastes

Ecclesiastes 1:1-14

September 12, 2021

PTC Vision statement: *building a community in Christlikeness*

Three elements: exaltation, edification, and evangelism

Four Values: Love, Holiness, Discipling the next generation, and evangelism

Discipling – teaching about God’s revelation in Scripture, about what it means to believe in Jesus Christ, and to live a life of obedience in dependence on Him.

Ecclesiastes – What is this unusual book of the Bible all about?

See Ecclesiastes 1:1-14

Main Message of Ecclesiastes:

- Warning against investing everything in human experience
- God has laid a heavy burden on humanity
- Ecclesiastes is an extended explanation of Genesis 3

Even the New Testament manifests that life is hard:

Matthew 6:34, Romans 8:36, 1 Corinthians 15:9

Ecclesiastes -- all about God’s reality and human accountability

Demonstrated in the Reality of Death

- All die – Ecclesiastes 2:16
- All leave their wealth to others – Ecclesiastes 2:18-21
- All die just like the animals – Ecclesiastes 3:18-21

Discipling the next generation:

- Making sense of a Book of the Bible like Ecclesiastes
- Helping it acknowledge the seriousness of sin
- Instructing it in the “fear of the Lord” and His salvation in Jesus Christ

Sermon-based Small Group Discussion Questions

1. After initial prayer, discuss your general impressions about the Book of Ecclesiastes. Do you think Solomon was the author of this book?
2. Read Ecclesiastes 1:1-14. What do you think of the expression that “all is meaningless?” How have you found this to be true in your experience?
3. What reason is there to take this book of the Bible seriously? What is the basic message it seeks to convey?
4. In what sense is it legitimate for followers of Jesus to agree about life as a burden? How does the New Testament support this idea?
5. Discuss the references to death in Ecclesiastes: 2:16, 2:18-21, and 3:18-21. What is the blessing of attending funerals according to Ecclesiastes 7:1-4? How have you found that funerals affect you, or other people?
6. How can the reality of death be useful in helping people think about God and eternal matters?
7. How do you think this Book of the Bible could be useful in discipling the next generation?

Conclude with prayer for one another according to insights from Ecclesiastes and also according to needs expressed otherwise.

Conclude by praying for application of this lesson