

For in much wisdom is much grief, and he  
who increases knowledge increases sorrow.

Ecclesiastes 1:18

Finish Well

# Finish Well

“Vanity of vanities,” says the Preacher;

“Vanity of vanities, all is vanity.”

Ecclesiastes 1:2

# Finish Well

“Vanity of vanities,” says the Preacher;

“Vanity of vanities, all is vanity.”

Ecclesiastes 1:2

Question

# Finish Well

“Vanity of vanities,” says the Preacher;

“Vanity of vanities, all is vanity.”

Ecclesiastes 1:2

Question

Answer

# Finish Well

“Vanity of vanities,” says the Preacher;

“Vanity of vanities, all is vanity.”

Ecclesiastes 1:2

Question

Answer

Reflection

# Finish Well

“Vanity of vanities,” says the Preacher;

“Vanity of vanities, all is vanity.”

Ecclesiastes 1:2

Question

Answer

Reflection

Depression

Finish Well

Finish Well

Question

# Finish Well

## Question

What profit has a man from all his labor  
in which he toils under the sun?

Ecclesiastes 1:3

# Finish Well

## Question

What profit has a man from all his labor  
in which he toils under the sun?

Ecclesiastes 1:3

# Finish Well

## Question

What profit has a man from all his labor  
in which he toils under the sun?

Ecclesiastes 1:3

# Finish Well

## Question

What profit has a man from all his labor  
in which he toils under the sun?

Ecclesiastes 1:3

# Finish Well

## Question

What profit has a man from all his labor  
in which he toils under the sun?

Ecclesiastes 1:3

What is the purpose of life?

# Finish Well

## Question

What profit has a man from all his labor  
in which he toils under the sun?

Ecclesiastes 1:3

What is the purpose of life?

Why am I doing what I am doing?

# Finish Well

## Question

What profit has a man from all his labor  
in which he toils under the sun?

Ecclesiastes 1:3

What is the purpose of life?

Why am I doing what I am doing?

Is this all there is?

# Finish Well

## Question

What profit has a man from all his labor  
in which he toils under the sun?

Ecclesiastes 1:3

# Finish Well

## Question

What profit has a man from all his labor  
in which he toils under the sun?

Ecclesiastes 1:3

Does life have any meaning other than survival?

# Finish Well

## Question

What profit has a man from all his labor  
in which he toils under the sun?

Ecclesiastes 1:3

Does life have any meaning other than survival?  
Is there more to life than food, clothing, shelter,  
money and the stuff money can buy?

# Finish Well

## Question

What profit has a man from all his labor  
in which he toils under the sun?

Ecclesiastes 1:3

# Finish Well

## Question

What profit has a man from all his labor  
in which he toils under the sun?

Ecclesiastes 1:3

And if so, what is it?

# Finish Well

## Question

What profit has a man from all his labor  
in which he toils under the sun?

Ecclesiastes 1:3

And if so, what is it?

What can I commit my life to that has meaning?

# Finish Well

## Question

What profit has a man from all his labor  
in which he toils under the sun?

Ecclesiastes 1:3

And if so, what is it?

What can I commit my life to that has meaning?

How can I make a difference while I am here?

# Finish Well

## Question

What profit has a man from all his labor  
in which he toils under the sun?

Ecclesiastes 1:3

# Finish Well

## Question

What profit has a man from all his labor  
in which he toils under the sun?

Ecclesiastes 1:3

What is the purpose of my existence?

# Finish Well

## Question

What profit has a man from all his labor  
in which he toils under the sun?

Ecclesiastes 1:3

What is the purpose of my existence?  
Is life better because I was born?

# Finish Well

## Question

What profit has a man from all his labor  
in which he toils under the sun?

Ecclesiastes 1:3

What is the purpose of my existence?

Is life better because I was born?

Or am I just taking up space, meaning nothing?

# Finish Well

## Question

What profit has a man from all his labor  
in which he toils under the sun?

Ecclesiastes 1:3

# Finish Well

## Question

What profit has a man from all his labor  
in which he toils under the sun?

Ecclesiastes 1:3

Is it true that everything is vanity, pure meaningless?

# Finish Well

## Question

What profit has a man from all his labor  
in which he toils under the sun?

Ecclesiastes 1:3

Is it true that everything is vanity, pure meaningless?

Is all that I know and love and have experienced  
in this life really worth nothing?

# Finish Well

## Question

What profit has a man from all his labor  
in which he toils under the sun?

Ecclesiastes 1:3

# Finish Well

## Question

What profit has a man from all his labor  
in which he toils under the sun?

Ecclesiastes 1:3

And if not (and I hope so), what does it profit me,  
or anyone for that matter, from all the weariness of  
life that we toil with while we are still alive?

# Finish Well

## Question

What profit has a man from all his labor  
in which he toils under the sun?

Ecclesiastes 1:3

# Finish Well

## Question

What profit has a man from all his labor  
in which he toils under the sun?

Ecclesiastes 1:3

Are you depressed yet? I think Solomon began his search for the meaning of life in a time of depression, void of the wisdom of God he once embraced.

Finish Well

Finish Well

Answer

# Finish Well

## Answer

That which has been is what will be,  
that which is done is what will be done,  
and there is nothing new under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 1:9

# Finish Well

Answer

**That which has been is what will be,**  
that which is done is what will be done,  
and there is nothing new under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 1:9

# Finish Well

Answer

That which has been is what will be,  
that which is done is what will be done,  
and there is nothing new under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 1:9

# Finish Well

Answer

That which has been is what will be,  
that which is done is what will be done,  
and there is nothing new under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 1:9

# Finish Well

## Answer

That which has been is what will be,  
that which is done is what will be done,  
and there is nothing new under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 1:9

This was Solomon's initial conclusion from a man who had walked away from a relationship with God.

Finish Well

Finish Well

Reflection

# Finish Well

## Reflection

Everything has a purpose... but me.

# Finish Well

## Reflection

Everything has a purpose... but me.  
God seems to have a plan for everything  
He has created... but me.

# Finish Well

## Reflection

Everything has a purpose... but me.

God seems to have a plan for everything

He has created... but me.

And I see this truth everywhere, even in nature.

# Finish Well

## Reflection

Everything has a purpose... but me.

God seems to have a plan for everything

He has created... but me.

And I see this truth everywhere, even in nature.

All of His creation seems to last forever,  
but I am wasting away, living only for myself.

# Finish Well

## Reflection

Everything has a purpose... but me.

God seems to have a plan for everything

He has created... but me.

And I see this truth everywhere, even in nature.

All of His creation seems to last forever,  
but I am wasting away, living only for myself.

Surely, this is not God's design for mankind.

Finish Well

Reflection

# Finish Well

## Reflection

One generation passes away,  
and another generation comes;  
but the earth abides forever (permanence).

Ecclesiastes 1:4

# Finish Well

## Reflection

**One generation passes away,**  
and another generation comes;  
but the earth abides forever (permanence).

Ecclesiastes 1:4

# Finish Well

## Reflection

One generation passes away,  
and another generation comes;  
but the earth abides forever (permanence).

Ecclesiastes 1:4

# Finish Well

## Reflection

One generation passes away,  
and another generation comes;  
but the earth abides forever (permanence).

Ecclesiastes 1:4

# Finish Well

## Reflection

One generation passes away,  
and another generation comes;  
but the earth abides forever (permanence).

Ecclesiastes 1:4

The earth has permanence.

# Finish Well

## Reflection

One generation passes away,  
and another generation comes;  
but the earth abides forever (permanence).

Ecclesiastes 1:4

The earth has permanence.

But I do not.

# Finish Well

## Reflection

One generation passes away,  
and another generation comes;  
but the earth abides forever (permanence).

Ecclesiastes 1:4

# Finish Well

## Reflection

One generation passes away,  
and another generation comes;  
but the earth abides forever (permanence).

Ecclesiastes 1:4

Every day I seem to be getting older.

# Finish Well

## Reflection

One generation passes away,  
and another generation comes;  
but the earth abides forever (permanence).

Ecclesiastes 1:4

Every day I seem to be getting older.  
And my life has little of lasting value to show for it.

Finish Well

Reflection

# Finish Well

## Reflection

The sun also rises (purpose),  
and the sun goes down (purpose),  
and hastens to the place where it arose (purpose).

Ecclesiastes 1:5

# Finish Well

## Reflection

**The sun also rises** (purpose),  
and the sun goes down (purpose),  
and hastens to the place where it arose (purpose).

Ecclesiastes 1:5

# Finish Well

## Reflection

The sun also rises (purpose),  
and the sun goes down (purpose),  
and hastens to the place where it arose (purpose).

Ecclesiastes 1:5

# Finish Well

## Reflection

The sun also rises (purpose),  
and the sun goes down (purpose),  
and hastens to the place where it arose (purpose).

Ecclesiastes 1:5

# Finish Well

## Reflection

The sun also rises (purpose),  
and the sun goes down (purpose),  
and hastens to the place where it arose (purpose).

Ecclesiastes 1:5

The sun has a purpose that blesses many.

# Finish Well

## Reflection

The sun also rises (purpose),  
and the sun goes down (purpose),  
and hastens to the place where it arose (purpose).

Ecclesiastes 1:5

The sun has a purpose that blesses many.

But I can't find the purpose of my life.

Finish Well

Reflection

# Finish Well

## Reflection

The wind goes toward the south,  
and turns around to the north;  
the wind whirls about continually,  
and comes again on its circuit.

Ecclesiastes 1:6

# Finish Well

## Reflection

The wind goes toward the south,  
and turns around to the north;  
the wind whirls about continually,  
and comes again on its circuit.

Ecclesiastes 1:6

# Finish Well

## Reflection

The wind goes toward the south,  
and turns around to the north;  
the wind whirls about continually,  
and comes again on its circuit.

Ecclesiastes 1:6

# Finish Well

## Reflection

The wind goes toward the south,  
and turns around to the north;  
the wind whirls about continually,  
and comes again on its circuit.

Ecclesiastes 1:6

# Finish Well

## Reflection

The wind goes toward the south,  
and turns around to the north;  
the wind whirls about continually,  
and comes again on its circuit.

Ecclesiastes 1:6

# Finish Well

## Reflection

The wind goes toward the south,  
and turns around to the north;  
the wind whirls about continually,  
and comes again on its circuit.

Ecclesiastes 1:6

The wind also has purpose and direction, and people can experience the purpose of the wind.

# Finish Well

## Reflection

The wind goes toward the south,  
and turns around to the north;  
the wind whirls about continually,  
and comes again on its circuit.

Ecclesiastes 1:6

# Finish Well

## Reflection

The wind goes toward the south,  
and turns around to the north;  
the wind whirls about continually,  
and comes again on its circuit.

Ecclesiastes 1:6

But not me. My life seems aimless and pointless.

Finish Well

Reflection

# Finish Well

## Reflection

All the rivers run into the sea, yet the sea is not full;  
to the place from which the rivers come,  
there they return again.

Ecclesiastes 1:7

# Finish Well

## Reflection

All the rivers run into the sea, yet the sea is not full;  
to the place from which the rivers come,  
there they return again.

Ecclesiastes 1:7

# Finish Well

## Reflection

All the rivers run into the sea, yet the sea is not full;  
to the place from which the rivers come,  
there they return again.

Ecclesiastes 1:7

# Finish Well

## Reflection

All the rivers run into the sea, yet the sea is not full;  
to the place from which the rivers come,  
there they return again.

Ecclesiastes 1:7

# Finish Well

## Reflection

All the rivers run into the sea, yet the sea is not full;  
to the place from which the rivers come,  
there they return again.

Ecclesiastes 1:7

# Finish Well

## Reflection

All the rivers run into the sea, yet the sea is not full;  
to the place from which the rivers come,  
there they return again.

Ecclesiastes 1:7

The rivers work and yet it seems their work is never done. Yet they don't seem discouraged, like I am.

Finish Well

Finish Well

Depression

# Finish Well

## Depression

All things are full of labor; man cannot express it.  
The eye is not satisfied with seeing,  
nor the ear filled with hearing.

Ecclesiastes 1:8

# Finish Well

## Depression

**All things are full of labor;** man cannot express it.

The eye is not satisfied with seeing,  
nor the ear filled with hearing.

Ecclesiastes 1:8

# Finish Well

## Depression

**All things are full of labor; man cannot express it.**

The eye is not satisfied with seeing,  
nor the ear filled with hearing.

Ecclesiastes 1:8

# Finish Well

## Depression

All things are full of labor; man cannot express it.  
The eye is not satisfied with seeing,  
nor the ear filled with hearing.

Ecclesiastes 1:8

# Finish Well

## Depression

All things are full of labor; man cannot express it.  
The eye is not satisfied with seeing,  
nor the ear filled with hearing.

Ecclesiastes 1:8

Finish Well

Depression

# Finish Well

## Depression

All things (*kōl*) are full of labor (being a cause of weariness, exhaustion, being worn out from monotony); man cannot express it (put into words).

Ecclesiastes 1:8a

# Finish Well

## Depression

**All things** (*kōl*) are full of labor (being a cause of weariness, exhaustion, being worn out from monotony); man cannot express it (put into words).

Ecclesiastes 1:8a

# Finish Well

## Depression

**All things (*kōl*) are full of labor** (being a cause of weariness, exhaustion, being worn out from monotony); man cannot express it (put into words).

Ecclesiastes 1:8a

# Finish Well

## Depression

**All things (*kōl*) are full of labor** (being a cause of weariness, exhaustion, being worn out from monotony); **man cannot express it** (put into words).

Ecclesiastes 1:8a

# Finish Well

## Depression

**All things** (*kōl*) **are full of labor** (being a cause of weariness, exhaustion, being worn out from monotony); **man cannot express it** (put into words).

Ecclesiastes 1:8a

Life is like running on a treadmill.

# Finish Well

## Depression

**All things (kōl) are full of labor** (being a cause of weariness, exhaustion, being worn out from monotony); **man cannot express it** (put into words).

Ecclesiastes 1:8a

Life is like running on a treadmill. You grow tired, weary, and exhausted, but go nowhere.

# Finish Well

## Depression

**All things (*kōl*) are full of labor** (being a cause of weariness, exhaustion, being worn out from monotony); **man cannot express it** (put into words).

Ecclesiastes 1:8a

# Finish Well

## Depression

**All things (kōl) are full of labor** (being a cause of weariness, exhaustion, being worn out from monotony); **man cannot express it** (put into words).

Ecclesiastes 1:8a

It feels so meaningless, you cannot even express the futility you are feeling living a life without purpose.

# Finish Well

## Depression

**All things (kōl) are full of labor** (being a cause of weariness, exhaustion, being worn out from monotony); **man cannot express it** (put into words).

Ecclesiastes 1:8a

# Finish Well

## Depression

**All things (kōl) are full of labor** (being a cause of weariness, exhaustion, being worn out from monotony); **man cannot express it** (put into words).

Ecclesiastes 1:8a

So you look for something new. Something to challenge you and provide some excitement.

Finish Well

Depression

# Finish Well

## Depression

The eye is not satisfied with seeing,  
nor the ear filled with hearing.

Ecclesiastes 1:8b

# Finish Well

## Depression

The eye is not satisfied with seeing,  
nor the ear filled with hearing.

Ecclesiastes 1:8b

# Finish Well

## Depression

The eye is not satisfied with seeing,  
nor the ear filled with hearing.

Ecclesiastes 1:8b

# Finish Well

## Depression

The eye is not satisfied with seeing,  
nor the ear filled with hearing.

Ecclesiastes 1:8b

But even that leads to depression. Why? Because no matter how much we see, we are never satisfied. And no matter how much we hear, we are not content.

# Finish Well

## Depression

The eye is not satisfied with seeing,  
nor the ear filled with hearing.

Ecclesiastes 1:8b

# Finish Well

## Depression

The eye is not satisfied with seeing,  
nor the ear filled with hearing.

Ecclesiastes 1:8b

And even if we do what we were created to do,  
like the eye and the ear, it is never enough.

# Finish Well

## Depression

The eye is not satisfied with seeing,  
nor the ear filled with hearing.

Ecclesiastes 1:8b

And even if we do what we were created to do,  
like the eye and the ear, it is never enough.

We always want more, something new and exciting.

Finish Well

Depression

# Finish Well

## Depression

That which has been is what will be,  
that which is done is what will be done,  
and there is nothing new under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 1:9

# Finish Well

## Depression

**That which has been is what will be,**  
that which is done is what will be done,  
and there is nothing new under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 1:9

# Finish Well

## Depression

That which has been is what will be,  
that which is done is what will be done,  
and there is nothing new under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 1:9

# Finish Well

## Depression

That which has been is what will be,  
that which is done is what will be done,  
and there is nothing new under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 1:9

# Finish Well

## Depression

That which has been is what will be,  
that which is done is what will be done,  
and there is nothing new under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 1:9

Yawn. One day done, another soon begun.

# Finish Well

## Depression

That which has been is what will be,  
that which is done is what will be done,  
and there is nothing new under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 1:9

Yawn. One day done, another soon begun.  
Everything's the same, nothing new under the sun.

Finish Well

# Finish Well

But Solomon won't accept what his mind is telling him. After all, life can't be this way.

# Finish Well

But Solomon won't accept what his mind is telling him. After all, life can't be this way. It wasn't in the past. So why is it now?

# Finish Well

But Solomon won't accept what his mind is telling him. After all, life can't be this way.

It wasn't in the past. So why is it now?

What has happened? What has changed?

# Finish Well

But Solomon won't accept what his mind is telling him. After all, life can't be this way.

It wasn't in the past. So why is it now?

What has happened? What has changed?

So he looks once again for something new and exciting that can keep his mind off his depression.

# Finish Well

But Solomon won't accept what his mind is telling him. After all, life can't be this way.

It wasn't in the past. So why is it now?

What has happened? What has changed?

So he looks once again for something new and exciting that can keep his mind off his depression.

But the answer only leads to more depression, and then a resolve to find the answer, apart from God.

# Finish Well

But Solomon won't accept what his mind is telling him. After all, life can't be this way.

It wasn't in the past. So why is it now?

What has happened? What has changed?

So he looks once again for something new and exciting that can keep his mind off his depression.

But the answer only leads to more depression, and then a resolve to find the answer, apart from God.

And we all know where that leads.

Finish Well

Finish Well

Question

# Finish Well

## Question

Is there anything of which it may be said,

“See, this is new”?

Ecclesiastes 1:10a

# Finish Well

## Question

Is there anything of which it may be said,

“See, this is new”?

Ecclesiastes 1:10a

# Finish Well

## Question

Is there anything of which it may be said,

“See, this is new”?

Ecclesiastes 1:10a

# Finish Well

## Question

Is there anything of which it may be said,

“See, this is new”?

Ecclesiastes 1:10a

# Finish Well

## Question

Is there anything of which it may be said,

“See, this is new”?

Ecclesiastes 1:10a

Is there anything new I can devote my life to?

# Finish Well

## Question

Is there anything of which it may be said,  
“See, this is new”?

Ecclesiastes 1:10a

Is there anything new I can devote my life to?  
Is there something exciting that will motivate me to  
get out of bed in the morning?

# Finish Well

## Question

Is there anything of which it may be said,

“See, this is new”?

Ecclesiastes 1:10a

# Finish Well

## Question

Is there anything of which it may be said,

“See, this is new”?

Ecclesiastes 1:10a

Is there a cause or a purpose or something greater than myself that I can commit my life to that will bring me satisfaction and contentment?

# Finish Well

## Question

Is there anything of which it may be said,

“See, this is new”?

Ecclesiastes 1:10a

# Finish Well

## Question

Is there anything of which it may be said,

“See, this is new”?

Ecclesiastes 1:10a

Is there anything that will give my life lasting meaning  
and make me feel like I've not wasted the time God  
has given me on this earth?

# Finish Well

## Question

Is there anything of which it may be said,

“See, this is new”?

Ecclesiastes 1:10a

# Finish Well

## Question

Is there anything of which it may be said,

“See, this is new”?

Ecclesiastes 1:10a

Answer:

# Finish Well

## Question

Is there anything of which it may be said,

“See, this is new”?

Ecclesiastes 1:10a

Answer: No

# Finish Well

## Question

Is there anything of which it may be said,

“See, this is new”?

Ecclesiastes 1:10a

Answer: No

Because you're looking for love (purpose, meaning, satisfaction, contentment) in all the wrong places.

Finish Well

Finish Well

Answer

# Finish Well

## Answer

It (what is new) has already been in ancient times before us. There is no remembrance of former things, nor will there be any remembrance of things that are to come by those who will come after.

Ecclesiastes 1:10b-11

# Finish Well

## Answer

**It** (what is new) has already been in ancient times before us. There is no remembrance of former things, nor will there be any remembrance of things that are to come by those who will come after.

Ecclesiastes 1:10b-11

# Finish Well

## Answer

It (what is new) **has already been in ancient times before us**. There is no remembrance of former things, nor will there be any remembrance of things that are to come by those who will come after.

Ecclesiastes 1:10b-11

# Finish Well

## Answer

It (what is new) **has already been in ancient times before us. There is no remembrance of former things,** nor will there be any remembrance of things that are to come by those who will come after.

Ecclesiastes 1:10b-11

# Finish Well

## Answer

It (what is new) has already been in ancient times before us. There is no remembrance of former things, nor will there be any remembrance of things that are to come by those who will come after.

Ecclesiastes 1:10b-11

# Finish Well

## Answer

It (what is new) has already been in ancient times before us. There is no remembrance of former things, nor will there be any remembrance of things that are to come by those who will come after.

Ecclesiastes 1:10b-11

# Finish Well

## Answer

It (what is new) has already been in ancient times before us. There is no remembrance of former things, nor will there be any remembrance of things that are to come by those who will come after.

Ecclesiastes 1:10b-11

Now depression leads to investigation.

Finish Well

Finish Well

Futile Investigation

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

I, the Preacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem.

Ecclesiastes 1:12

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

I, the Preacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem.

Ecclesiastes 1:12

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

I, **the Preacher**, was king over Israel in Jerusalem.

Ecclesiastes 1:12

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

I, the Preacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem.

Ecclesiastes 1:12

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

I, the Preacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem.

Ecclesiastes 1:12

Solomon understood he had the time and resources, as king, to undertake such a Herculean task of trying to find the meaning of life without God in the center.

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

I, the Preacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem.

Ecclesiastes 1:12

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

I, the Preacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem.

Ecclesiastes 1:12

But since all meaning and purpose come from our Creator, Solomon was in for a painful discovery.

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

I, the Preacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem.

Ecclesiastes 1:12

But since all meaning and purpose come from our Creator, Solomon was in for a painful discovery.

And the same goes for each of us.

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

I, the Preacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem.

Ecclesiastes 1:12

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

I, the Preacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem.

Ecclesiastes 1:12

Note how Solomon looks everywhere for meaning but the one place where it is found. And this is why I believe God placed his search in the Scriptures.

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

And I set my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all that is done under heaven; this burdensome task God has given to the sons of man, by which they may be exercised.

Ecclesiastes 1:13

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

**And I set my heart to seek and search out by wisdom**  
concerning all that is done under heaven;  
this burdensome task God has given to the  
sons of man, by which they may be exercised.

Ecclesiastes 1:13

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

And I set my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all that is done under heaven; this burdensome task God has given to the sons of man, by which they may be exercised.

Ecclesiastes 1:13

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

And I set my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all that is done under heaven; this burdensome task God has given to the sons of man, by which they may be exercised.

Ecclesiastes 1:13

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

And I set my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all that is done under heaven; this burdensome task God has given to the sons of man, by which they may be exercised.

Ecclesiastes 1:13

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

And I set my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all that is done under heaven; this burdensome task God has given to the sons of man, by which they may be exercised.

Ecclesiastes 1:13

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

And I set my heart (*lēb* - mind) to seek (to try to get or reach something one desires, like a lover) and search out (to explore, spy out, discover) by wisdom (skill, experience, accumulated knowledge) concerning all that is done under heaven (the actions of men and not nature);

Ecclesiastes 1:13a

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

**And I set my heart** (*lēb* - mind) to seek (to try to get or reach something one desires, like a lover) and search out (to explore, spy out, discover) by wisdom (skill, experience, accumulated knowledge) concerning all that is done under heaven (the actions of men and not nature);

Ecclesiastes 1:13a

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

**And I set my heart** (*lēb* - mind) **to seek** (to try to get or reach something one desires, like a lover) and search out (to explore, spy out, discover) by wisdom (skill, experience, accumulated knowledge) concerning all that is done under heaven (the actions of men and not nature);

Ecclesiastes 1:13a

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

**And I set my heart** (*lēb* - mind) **to seek** (to try to get or reach something one desires, like a lover) **and search out** (to explore, spy out, discover) by wisdom (skill, experience, accumulated knowledge) concerning all that is done under heaven (the actions of men and not nature);

Ecclesiastes 1:13a

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

**And I set my heart** (*lēb* - mind) **to seek** (to try to get or reach something one desires, like a lover) **and search out** (to explore, spy out, discover) **by wisdom** (skill, experience, accumulated knowledge) concerning all that is done under heaven (the actions of men and not nature);

Ecclesiastes 1:13a

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

**And I set my heart** (*lēb* - mind) **to seek** (to try to get or reach something one desires, like a lover) **and search out** (to explore, spy out, discover) **by wisdom** (skill, experience, accumulated knowledge) **concerning all that is done under heaven** (the actions of men and not nature);

Ecclesiastes 1:13a

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

this burdensome task (life) God has given to the  
sons of man, by which they may be exercised.

Ecclesiastes 1:13b

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

**this burdensome task** (life) God has given to the  
sons of man, by which they may be exercised.

Ecclesiastes 1:13b

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

**this burdensome task (life) God has given to the sons of man,** by which they may be exercised.

Ecclesiastes 1:13b

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

this burdensome task (life) God has given to the  
sons of man, by which they may be exercised.

Ecclesiastes 1:13b

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

this burdensome task (life) God has given to the  
sons of man, by which they may be exercised.

Ecclesiastes 1:13b

Or, to put it another way...

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

What a heavy burden God has laid on mankind!

Ecclesiastes 1:13b (NIV)

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

What a heavy burden God has laid on mankind!

Ecclesiastes 1:13b (NIV)

It is an unhappy business that God has given to the  
children of man to be busy with.

Ecclesiastes 1:13b (ESV)

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

It is a sorry task with which God has given the  
sons of mankind to be troubled.

Ecclesiastes 1:13b (NASB 2020)

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

It is a grievous task which God has given to  
the sons of men to be afflicted with.

Ecclesiastes 1:13b (NASB 1995)

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

I concluded: God has given people a burdensome task that keeps them occupied.

Ecclesiastes 1:13b (NET)

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

I soon discovered that God has dealt a  
tragic existence to the human race.

Ecclesiastes 1:13b (NLT)

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

I soon discovered that God has dealt a  
tragic existence to the human race.

Ecclesiastes 1:13b (NLT)

And what was Solomon's initial conclusion?

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

I have seen all the works that are done under the sun;  
and indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind.

Ecclesiastes 1:14

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

I have seen all the works that are done under the sun;  
and indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind.

Ecclesiastes 1:14

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

I have seen all the works that are done under the sun;  
and indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind.

Ecclesiastes 1:14

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

I have seen all the works that are done under the sun;  
and indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind.

Ecclesiastes 1:14

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

I have seen all the works that are done under the sun;  
and indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind.

Ecclesiastes 1:14

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

I have seen all the works that are done under the sun;  
and indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind.

Ecclesiastes 1:14

All is meaningless, pointless, vanity, and has no lasting value, like grasping for the wind.

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

I have seen all the works that are done under the sun;  
and indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind.

Ecclesiastes 1:14

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

I have seen all the works that are done under the sun;  
and indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind.

Ecclesiastes 1:14

Question:

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

I have seen all the works that are done under the sun;  
and indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind.

Ecclesiastes 1:14

Question: What is the meaning of life?

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

I have seen all the works that are done under the sun;  
and indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind.

Ecclesiastes 1:14

Question: What is the meaning of life?

Answer:

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

I have seen all the works that are done under the sun;  
and indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind.

Ecclesiastes 1:14

Question: What is the meaning of life?

Answer: Without God, pretty much nothing.

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

I have seen all the works that are done under the sun;  
and indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind.

Ecclesiastes 1:14

# Finish Well

Futile Investigation  
(unless it leads back to God)

I have seen all the works that are done under the sun;  
and indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind.

Ecclesiastes 1:14

And this from the man who was the wisest and  
richest person on the earth at that time.

Finish Well

# Finish Well

Let me close with giving you a few of the conclusions of Solomon when looking at life with human eyes.

Finish Well

# Finish Well

One, life is hard, but it is nevertheless a gift from God.

# Finish Well

One, life is hard, but it is nevertheless a gift from God.

And I set my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all that is done under heaven; this burdensome task (life) God has given to the sons of man, by which they may be exercised.

Ecclesiastes 1:13

# Finish Well

One, life is hard, but it is nevertheless a gift from God.

And I set my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all that is done under heaven; this **burdensome task** (life) God has given to the sons of man, by which they may be exercised.

Ecclesiastes 1:13

# Finish Well

One, life is hard, but it is nevertheless a gift from God.

And I set my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all that is done under heaven; this **burdensome task** (life) **God has given to the sons of man**, by which they may be exercised.

Ecclesiastes 1:13

Finish Well

# Finish Well

Two, life doesn't get any easier if you try to run away from it (such as workaholic or alcoholic).

# Finish Well

Two, life doesn't get any easier if you try to run away from it (such as workaholic or alcoholic).

I have seen all the works that are done under the sun;  
and indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind.

Ecclesiastes 1:14

# Finish Well

Two, life doesn't get any easier if you try to run away from it (such as workaholic or alcoholic).

I have seen all the works that are done under the sun;  
and indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind.

Ecclesiastes 1:14

# Finish Well

Two, life doesn't get any easier if you try to run away from it (such as workaholic or alcoholic).

I have seen all the works that are done under the sun;  
and indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind.

Ecclesiastes 1:14

# Finish Well

Two, life doesn't get any easier if you try to run away from it (such as workaholic or alcoholic).

I have seen all the works that are done under the sun;  
and indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind.

Ecclesiastes 1:14

Finish Well

# Finish Well

Three, not everything can be changed,  
no matter how hard you try.

# Finish Well

Three, not everything can be changed,  
no matter how hard you try.

What is crooked cannot be made straight,  
and what is lacking cannot be numbered.

Ecclesiastes 1:15

# Finish Well

Three, not everything can be changed,  
no matter how hard you try.

**What is crooked cannot be made straight,**  
and what is lacking cannot be numbered.

Ecclesiastes 1:15

# Finish Well

Three, not everything can be changed,  
no matter how hard you try.

What is crooked cannot be made straight,  
and what is lacking cannot be numbered.

Ecclesiastes 1:15

Finish Well

# Finish Well

Finally, wisdom and experience will not always solve every problem, no matter how you wish they could.

# Finish Well

Finally, wisdom and experience will not always solve every problem, no matter how you wish they could.

I communed with my heart, saying, “Look, I have attained greatness, and have gained more wisdom than all who were before me in Jerusalem. My heart has understood great wisdom and knowledge.”

Ecclesiastes 1:16

# Finish Well

Finally, wisdom and experience will not always solve every problem, no matter how you wish they could.

**I communed with my heart, saying,** “Look, I have attained greatness, and have gained more wisdom than all who were before me in Jerusalem. My heart has understood great wisdom and knowledge.”

Ecclesiastes 1:16

# Finish Well

Finally, wisdom and experience will not always solve every problem, no matter how you wish they could.

**I communed with my heart, saying, “Look, I have attained greatness, and have gained more wisdom than all who were before me in Jerusalem. My heart has understood great wisdom and knowledge.”**

Ecclesiastes 1:16

# Finish Well

Finally, wisdom and experience will not always solve every problem, no matter how you wish they could.

I communed with my heart, saying, “Look, I have attained greatness, and have gained more wisdom than all who were before me in Jerusalem. My heart has understood great wisdom and knowledge.”

Ecclesiastes 1:16

# Finish Well

Finally, wisdom and experience will not always solve every problem, no matter how you wish they could.

I communed with my heart, saying, “Look, I have attained greatness, and have gained more wisdom than all who were before me in Jerusalem. My heart has understood great wisdom and knowledge.”

Ecclesiastes 1:16

# Finish Well

Finally, wisdom and experience will not always solve every problem, no matter how you wish they could.

I communed with my heart, saying, “Look, I have attained greatness, and have gained more wisdom than all who were before me in Jerusalem. My heart has understood great wisdom and knowledge.”

Ecclesiastes 1:16

# Finish Well

Finally, wisdom and experience will not always solve every problem, no matter how you wish they could.

# Finish Well

Finally, wisdom and experience will not always solve every problem, no matter how you wish they could.

And I set my heart to know wisdom and to know madness and folly. I perceived that this also is grasping for the wind. For in much wisdom is much grief, and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow.

Ecclesiastes 1:17-18

# Finish Well

Finally, wisdom and experience will not always solve every problem, no matter how you wish they could.

**And I set my heart to know wisdom and to know madness and folly.** I perceived that this also is grasping for the wind. For in much wisdom is much grief, and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow.

Ecclesiastes 1:17-18

# Finish Well

Finally, wisdom and experience will not always solve every problem, no matter how you wish they could.

And I set my heart to know wisdom and to know madness and folly. I perceived that this also is grasping for the wind. For in much wisdom is much grief, and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow.

Ecclesiastes 1:17-18

# Finish Well

Finally, wisdom and experience will not always solve every problem, no matter how you wish they could.

And I set my heart to know wisdom and to know madness and folly. I perceived that this also is grasping for the wind. For in much wisdom is much grief, and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow.

Ecclesiastes 1:17-18

# Finish Well

Finally, wisdom and experience will not always solve every problem, no matter how you wish they could.

And I set my heart to know wisdom and to know madness and folly. I perceived that this also is grasping for the wind. For in much wisdom is much grief, and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow.

Ecclesiastes 1:17-18

Finish Well

# Finish Well

We will look at these closer next Sunday.

# Finish Well

We will look at these closer next Sunday.

Also, the key Solomon was missing was knowing God's plan for his life. He once knew it (Proverbs, Song of Solomon), but had drifted from God due to sin.

# Finish Well

We will look at these closer next Sunday.

Also, the key Solomon was missing was knowing God's plan for his life. He once knew it (Proverbs, Song of Solomon), but had drifted from God due to sin.

This week I will send out two teachings on how to know the will of God and we will also look at these in more detail next Sunday.