

Ecclesiastes 6
 Winter 2023

Ecclesiastes 6:1-2 (p555)

¹ There is an evil that I have seen under the sun, and it lies heavy on mankind:
² a man to whom God gives wealth, possessions, and honor, so that he lacks nothing of all that he desires, yet God does not give him power to enjoy them, but a stranger enjoys them. This is vanity; it is a grievous evil.

Ecclesiastes 6:3-6

³ If a man fathers a hundred children and lives many years, so that the days of his years are many, but his soul is not satisfied with life's good things, and he also has no burial, I say that a stillborn child is better off than he. ⁴ For it comes in vanity and goes in darkness, and in darkness its name is covered. ⁵ Moreover, it has not seen the sun or known anything, yet it finds rest rather than he. ⁶ Even though he should live a thousand years twice over, yet enjoy no good—do not all go to the one place?

Ecc 3:17

"I said in my heart, **God will judge the righteous and the wicked**, for there is a time for every matter and for every work."

Ecclesiastes 6:7-9

⁷ All the toil of man is for his mouth, yet **his appetite is not satisfied**.

⁸ For what advantage has the wise man over the fool? And what does the poor man have who knows how to conduct himself before the living?

⁹ Better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of the appetite: this also is vanity and a striving after wind.

Ecc 6:7

⁷ All the toil of man is for his mouth, yet **his appetite is not satisfied**.

John 6:27

"Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the **food that endures to eternal life**, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal."

Ecc 6:7

⁷ All the toil of man is for his mouth, yet **his appetite is not satisfied.**

Is 55:2

Why spend money on that which is not bread, and your labor on that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and **eat what is good**, and your soul will delight in the richest of foods.

1 Kings 2:4 (p280)

²¹ “If that the Lord may establish his word that he spoke concerning me, saying, ‘If your sons pay close attention to their way, **to walk before me** in faithfulness with all their heart and with all their soul, you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.’

Ecc 1:8

⁸ **...the eye is not satisfied with seeing...**

Ecc 11:9

walk in the ways of your heart and the **sight of your eyes**. But know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment.”

Rewards of life are:

v7 – short-lived (appetite not satisfied)

v8 – debatable (what advantage?)

v9 – elusive (striving after wind)

John 6:26 (p891)

“Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill.”



Ecc 6:10-12

¹⁰ Whatever has come to be has already been named, and it is known what man is, and that he is not able to dispute with one stronger than he. ¹¹ The more words, the more vanity, and what is the advantage to man? ¹² For who knows what is good for man while he lives the few days of his vain life, which he passes like a shadow? For who can tell man what will be after him under the sun?

Who knows?

2:19 and **who knows** whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity.

3:21 **Who knows** whether the spirit of man goes upward and the spirit of the beast goes down into the earth?

6:12 For **who knows** what is good for man while he lives the few days of his vain life, which he passes like a shadow? For who can tell man what will be after him under the sun?

What is good for man...?

- Something adequate for every day (***the few days of his vain life***)
- And which can cope with the futility of the earthly realm (***while he lives on this earth***)
- And the brevity of man (***which he passes as a shadow***)

Who knows? **God**

Who can tell man what will be after him under the sun? Again, **God**



What are some reasons that people are not able to enjoy their blessings or are not satisfied with what they have?

Phil 4:10-13 (p982)

• ¹⁰ I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. ¹¹ Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. ¹² I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³ I can do all things through him who strengthens me.



Why is contentment so difficult for us?

What can we do to be more at peace with our lives and to truly be content?
