

"Facts, Feelings, & Faith for Primetime"

Primetime Breakfast

March 22, 2025

TABLE DISCUSSION

INTRO ...

- **Charter Statement Reminder** (Why Do We Have "Children's, Youth, Senior's, Married, Men's/Women's ministries)

Ecc 3:1-14 ¹ For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

² a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

³ a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

⁴ a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

⁵ a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

⁶ a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

⁷ a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

⁸ a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

⁹ What gain has the worker from his toil? ¹⁰ I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. ¹¹ He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. ¹² I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; ¹³ also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man.

¹⁴ I perceived that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it. God has done it, so that people fear before him.

- **"WISDOM"**

Prov 4:1, 5-7 ¹ Hear, O sons, a father's instruction, and be attentive, that you may gain insight,...

⁵ Get wisdom; get insight; do not forget, and do not turn away from the words of my mouth.

⁶ Do not forsake her, and she will keep you; love her, and she will guard you.

⁷ The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight.

MEET Our Wisdom Tour-guide (He'll be taking us on a Guided Tour of Ecc.)

1Ki 4:29-31 And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding beyond measure, and breadth of mind like the sand on the seashore, ³⁰ so that Solomon's wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the people of the east and all the wisdom of Egypt. ³¹ For he was wiser than all other men,

Ecc 1:12-18 | the Preacher have been king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³ And I applied my heart to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven. It is an unhappy business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. ¹⁴ I have seen everything that is done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind.

"Wisdom" is NOT merely about knowing God, His Word, His ways, or sound life-principles ...it is also about knowing yourself!

FACTS

FACTS of a Fallen World

Ecc 1:2, 8-9, 14-15 ² Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. ...⁸ All things are full of weariness; a man cannot utter it; the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing. ⁹ What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun. ...¹⁴ I have seen everything that is done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind. ¹⁵ What is crooked cannot be made straight, and what is lacking cannot be counted.

- **The THEME of Ecc.** ... **"VANITY"** ('hebel' (Heb.) Used 38 times) = *emptiness or vanity; something transitory and unsatisfactory; breath, vapor* (Enhanced Strong's Dictionary) ...*something with no substance, meaninglessness, futility* (Mounce's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words)
- **The Vocabulary of Ecc. ('under the sun')** ...Words from Chapter 1: Vanity ...weariness ...unsatisfying ...unfilled ...unhappy ...crooked ...madness ...folly ...vexation ...sorrow

...Ecc (Solomon's Detailed Vanity passages) ...are also the things that "Vex Us"!!

- **"Pleasure-Vanity"** is Under-the-Sun ... **Ecc 2:1** ¹ I said in my heart, "Come now, I will test you with pleasure; enjoy yourself." But behold, this also was vanity.
- **"Achievement-Vanity"** is Under-the-Sun ... **Ecc 2:4-5, 9, 11** ⁴ I made great works. I built houses and planted vineyards for myself. ⁵ I made myself gardens and parks, and planted in them all kinds of fruit trees. ...⁹ So I became great and surpassed all who were before me in Jerusalem. ...¹¹ Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind
- **"Oppression-Vanity"** is Under-the-Sun ... **Ecc 4:1** ¹ Again I saw all the oppressions that are done under the sun. And behold, the tears of the oppressed, and they had no one to comfort them! On the side of their oppressors there was power, and there was no one to comfort them.

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- **"Money-Vanity"** is Under-the-Sun ...**Ecc 5:10-11** *He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity.* ¹¹ *When goods increase, they increase who eat them, and what advantage has their owner but to see them with his eyes?*
- **"Physical & Emotional Suffering-Vanity"** is Under-the-Sun ...**Ecc 5:17** *"... all his days he eats in darkness in much vexation and sickness and anger.*
- **"Unfairness-Vanity"** is Under-the-Sun... **Ecc 7:15** *In my vain life I have seen everything. There is a righteous man who perishes in his righteousness, and there is a wicked man who prolongs his life in his evildoing. ...Ecc 8:14* *"...there are righteous people to whom it happens according to the deeds of the wicked, and there are wicked people to whom it happens according to the deeds of the righteous. I said that this also is vanity.*

"But in the poetry that opens his book the Preacher is not commenting on what life is like without Christ. He is not saying this repetitive roundabout is what life is like from a secularist perspective. This is not what the world feels like from the viewpoint of existential nihilism, or postmodern navel gazing. It's just what the world is like. It's reality. It's the same for everyone, Christian or non-Christian, adherent or atheist: we each live under the sun." **David Gibson**, "Live Life Backwards", p. 36

FACTS of Primetime

Ecc 3:1-14 ¹ For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

² a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

...What kind of things might/often characterize "Primetime"?

- Have there been PHYSICAL Changes
- Have there been Mental & Emotional Changes
- Have there been Relational Changes
- Have there been Outlook/Perspective Changes ("Been there, done that" ... "naïve vs cynical" ... "immature vs many life experiences")

FEELINGS

- Feel Mentally "Blurry" (maybe even overwhelmed or over-stimulated; possibly confused or not remembering accurately)
- Feel Overwhelmed
- Feel Unmotivated (bored ...more of the same ...just don't feel like _____)
- Feel Relationally Distant (even abandoned or lonely; possibly even conspired against)
- Feel Emotionally 'Thin' (more easily irritable, less patient, more defensive)
- Feel Anxious ...feel Cranky! ...feel Angry

Your Life FEELS different

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How good a job are you doing "diagnosing" and doing the "pathology report" on those feelings?

?? – Are You Able/Comfortable to have real and meaningful conversations about your personal "Primetime Facts & Feelings"?

- ☐ With your peers?
- ☐ With your pastors?
- ☐ With your doctor?
- ☐ With your children or grandchildren?

"Wisdom" is NOT merely about knowing God, His Word, His ways, or sound life-principles ...it is also about knowing yourself!

"Our wisdom, in so far as it ought to be deemed true and solid wisdom, consists almost entirely of two parts: the knowledge of God and of ourselves." **John Calvin**, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*

- What are My DEFAULT Settings?

- ☐ Talk too much? ...Not enough? ...Loud?
- ☐ Lazy? ...Hoarder?
- ☐ Controlling? ...Hyper-Clean?
- ☐ Socially Awkward? ...
- ☐ Melancholy? ...
- ☐ Nervous? ...Overly Careful & Concerned?
- ☐ Opinionated? ...
- ☐ Critical?

- What is my Personality Like to Interact with?

- What have I learned about me by the similar responses I get from various people?

FAITH

Faith & Daily Activity ...

Ecc 9:7-8, 10⁷ Go, eat your bread with joy, and drink your wine with a merry heart, for God has already approved what you do. ⁸ Let your garments be always white. Let not oil be lacking on your head. ... ¹⁰ Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might, ...

Ecc 11:1-2, 4-6 Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days. ² Give a portion to seven, or even to eight, for you know not what disaster may happen on earth. ... ⁴ He who observes the wind will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap. ⁵ As you do not know the way the spirit comes to the bones in the womb of a woman with child, so you do not know the work of God who makes everything. ⁶ In the morning sow your seed, and at evening withhold not your hand, for you do not know which will prosper, this or that, or whether both alike will be good.

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Ecc 12:1, 13 ¹ Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, "I have no pleasure in them"; ... ¹³ The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.

- Keep Moving! Keep DOING! Keep Living Life as Long as You are Here! (even though it might not be at the pace of previous seasons)—Don't Embrace Inactivity & Low Motivation

Faith & an Atmosphere of HOPE

- You may need to get your hope by shopping at a different store! ...
- Fighting for Hope in fallen times and seasons

Rom 8:18-26 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness.