

August 7th 2005: OT review Ecclesiastes: Christ: the missing link.

Ecclesiastes is definitely not one of my favourite.....

Neither is it one that I turn to often

When I think of it.....it is usually in connection with a funeral....when parts of 12
Remember your Creator in the days of your youth before the days of trouble come

Or when I hear the old Peter, Paul and Mary song....based on chapter 3
*To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven
A time to be born and a time to die....a time to plant and a time to pluck up*

I think of it when I hear the expression.....*Vanity upon vanity.....or
There is nothing new under the sun.....&*

I admit to being often encouraged by verse 1 of chapter 11.....terms of my preaching
Cast your bread upon the waters; for after many days you will find it again

Many times I have used chapter 4:9-12 ...basis for a marriage.....where it says
Two are better than one.....and a little later....a cord of 3 stands is not quickly broken

But other than those times.....I tend to pass it by.....

Seeing it as more about man than God.....More man's viewpoint than God's...
and quite negative in its basic makeup

Yet in fact.....it is that emphasis within the book of Ecclesiastes.....that makes it
A valuable part of the Bible

For it shows that when you look at life from a purely human standpoint....
It doesn't make sense.....It lacks any real meaning

The PREACHER.....who is King David's son Solomon.....has devoted his wisdom
To trying to work out how a person can find contentment....happiness....meaning

He first tried the pathway of wisdom

But he found out that the more he knew.....More depressed and unhappy he became
(Hogan's Hero's and Schultz "I know nuthing!" ...

September 11th attack.....When God is left out....more knowledge only leads....)

Then great projects.....good at the time....just got old or forgotten

Then he tried pleasure.....women.....wine.....wealth.....material acquisitions
Some happiness at the time....but it wasn't lasting

Then he started to look around him.....and he saw that whether a person was good or bad.....Their end was the same.....Death
So there was no reward for the good.....or punishment.....NO JUSTICE

In fact.....when man considers life and death without Creator God.....

There is nothing to strive after that lasts.....Nothing to look forward to.....
Nothing that makes sense of man's existence.

(morgan's illustrations.....p182 Helen of Troy.....)

Then... after all his searchings....all his experiences of life...

the Preacher came to the conclusion that he ends ...book with.....**12:13-14...**

He understood that the only lasting thing in life.....and in the end....
only thing that counts.....Is to have a good relationship with Almighty God

For Him such a relationshipdepended upon keeping God's laws

And being accountable to a God of judgment

And for Solomon that was possibly not a happy thought

For it is said that Solomon wrote the Song of Songs when he was young
Proverbs in Middle age

Ecclesiastes when he was old

And that this book expresses his own regret.....for his folly...his carnality.....idolatry
That so plaque the latter years of his reign

But for us.....a relationship with a loving merciful God...is now ours

Through Jesus.....God the Son.....our sacrifice.....Our way.....

In Ecclesiastes the expression ... “Under the Sun”used to describe life on earth

In your notes I have listed a comparison.....that one man has made between

LIFE UNDER THE SUN	LIFE UNDER THE SON
1:3 What advantage is work under the sun.	He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ(Phil 1:6)
1:9 Nothing new under the sun.	Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation....all things have become new(2 Cor 5:17)
1:14 All deeds are vanity under the sun.	Be steadfast, immovable....knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord(1 Cor 15:58)
2:18 The fruit of labour is hated under the sun.	Being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God(Col 1:10)
6:12 Man is mortal under the sun.	Whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life(John 3:16)
8:15 Pleasure is temporary under the sun	For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure(Phil2:13)
8:17 Man cannot discover God’s work under the sun	Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.(1 Cor 13:12)
9:3 All men die under the sun	God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son(1 John 5:11)
9:11 Strength and speed under the sun	God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty(1 Cor 1:27)
12:2 Life under the sun will cease	That you may know that you have eternal life(1 John 5:13)

To know Jesus as Saviour....is to know the Good Shepherd who gave His life ...

And to find in Him purpose for living...strength to be what God wants you 2b

For as Ephesians 2:10 says:

*We are...God’s workmanship....created in Christ Jesus to do good works,
which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

