

Half Empty or Half Full?

It's all about your perspective
Ecclesiastes 1:1-2, 12:13-14

2 Timothy 3:14-17

[14] But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it [15] and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

[16] All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

[17] that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

***“More than anything else in the Bible, Ecclesiastes captures the futility and frustration of a fallen world, It is honest about the drudgery of work, the injustice of government, the dissatisfaction of foolish pleasure, and the mind-numbing tedium of every day life – “The treadmill of our existence.” Think of Ecclesiastes as the only book of the Bible written on a Monday morning
(Ecclesiastes, by Philip Graham Ryken)***

Road Map

- 1) Who, What, Why?
- 2) Our attitude will determine the benefit

Ecclesiastes 1:1-2, 12:13-14

Chapter 1

[1] The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.

[2] Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

Chapter 12

[13] The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. [14] For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

Who?

- “The author is not really important since the scripture is the very words of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit. (Ecclesiastes, Ryken)
- “Preacher” can also be translated: Teacher or Pastor
- “Ecclesia” = The gathering or the congregation
 - 1 Kings 8

What

- This is wisdom from the perspective of a fallen world, a post Eden perspective.
- “Vanities of vanities, everything is vanity”
 - Everything is futile!
- Everything that comes before the ending needs to be taken in light of the truth of his closing statement.
 - Ecc 12:13 Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.

Why?

“The book of Ecclesiastes is God’s wise counsel to those who know His ways, but have found them, at times, to be frustrating and perplexing.”

(The Reformation Study Bible)

Learning from other’s mistakes is the most efficient and profitable form of learning

Our attitude will determine our benefit

- **Vanity: i.e. temporary, meaningless, senseless, futile, absurd, empty**
- **“a striving after wind”**
 - **It’s like: a bubble, smoke that curls up into the air, mist, breathe.**

“The best way to read Ecclesiastes is as (1) God’s wisdom literature, (2) with a unified message, (3) that makes better, but not perfect, sense in the light of the crucified, Risen, and Returning Christ. (Ecclesiastes Douglas Sean O’Donnell)



