



Economics
Message 3

J.C. Thompson
January 9, 2022

► **Outline**

I observed yet another example of something meaningless under the sun. This is the case of a man who is all alone, without a child or a brother, yet who works hard to gain as much wealth as he can. But then he asks himself, "Who am I working for? Why am I giving up so much pleasure now?" It is all so meaningless and depressing.

Ecclesiastes 4:7-8 (NLT)

A. Money cannot provide...

1. _____.
(Ecclesiastes 5:1-6. C/R: Hebrews 12:14)

2. _____.
(Ecclesiastes 5:10-11. C/R: 1 Timothy 6:9-10)

3. _____.
(Ecclesiastes 5:12-17. C/R: Mark 4:19)

B. But you can find satisfaction through...

1. _____.
(Ecclesiastes 4:7-12)

2. _____.
(Ecclesiastes 5:18-6:6. C/R: Mark 8:36)

3. _____.
(Ecclesiastes 6:10-12. C/R: Genesis 3:15)

Answers: A. 1. Holiness 2. Happiness 3. Health B. 1. Community 2. Contentment 3. Christ
Resource Information: Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, a Division of Tyndale House Ministries, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved. C/R refers to a 'cross reference.' Today's outline and discussion guide are available through the Brookwood Church app.



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► Discussion Guide

Use this guide by yourself or with friends to pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus. To connect with others, visit brookwoodchurch.org/adults.

Conversation Starter

Imagine your house is on fire, and everyone is safe. You have 30 seconds to run through the house and collect three or four items you want to save. What would you grab? Why?

Begin your study with prayer

Pause for a few minutes to quiet your heart and mind. Then ask God for insight and direction as you study and reflect on this week's lesson.

Bible Study and Group Discussion

Read [Ecclesiastes 5:1-20](#).

1. What do you think it means to make a *mindless offering to God* ([vs. 1](#))? Can you think of a time you were guilty of this?
2. Why is it important to let our *words be few* ([vs. 2-3](#))? What's the writer trying to help us understand? For further insight, read [Psalm 19:14](#); [Habakkuk 2:20](#); [Matthew 6:7-8](#); [15:7-9](#).
3. What happens in a friendship or culture when a person's word can no longer be trusted ([vs. 4-5](#))? Can you think of an example?
4. Fearing God ([vs. 7](#)) includes the idea of recognizing God's majesty, standing in awe of Him. How would regarding God as holy impact your relationship with Him? What practices help cultivate deeper reverence for God?
5. Would you say you live more with a scarcity mindset or with a spirit of contentment? Explain.
6. How often do you worry about not having enough money? What does that reveal about your view of God?

7. What problems and frustrations are there for people who pursue wealth as their primary goal in life ([vs. 11-15](#))?
8. Describe a time you saw someone being extremely generous. What impact did that have on you?
9. How does it *harm the saver* to store up (hoard) riches ([vs. 13-15](#))?
10. God owns everything (see [1 Chronicles 29:11-13](#)). How could seeing yourself as a steward rather than an owner help you experience greater contentment?
11. What impact does your view of God and your motivations have on your legacy? What changes will you make in the way you live?
12. How can you apply [vs. 18-20](#) to your life this week? Consider the practical steps given in [1 Timothy 6:17-19](#).

Spiritual Practice

A spiritual practice is training for the soul. If you build these into your everyday life, you're sure to strengthen your relationship with God.

Make a list of gifts God has given you (good health, resources, etc.). Reflect on these things, and ask God to give you a heart of gratitude and contentment.

Memory Verse

"And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul?"
[Mark 8:36 \(NLT\)](#)

Daily Reading

Day 1: [1 Chronicles 29:11-13](#) Day 4: [Philippians 4:10-13](#)

Day 2: [1 Timothy 6:17-19](#) Day 5: [Psalm 24:1-6](#)

Day 3: [Matthew 6:7-8](#)

Prepare for Next Sunday

Next Sunday, January 16, we'll conclude the series *What's the Point*. To prepare read [Ecclesiastes 9:1-12:14](#).



580 Brookwood Point Place • Simpsonville SC 29681
864.688.8200 • brookwoodchurch.org