

ECCLESIASTES

(Transcribed from a message taught at the Third Day Fellowship)

Chapter Six

1. *There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, and it is common among men:*
2. *A man to whom God has given riches, wealth, and honor, so that he wants nothing for his soul of all that he desires, yet God gives him not power to eat thereof, but a stranger eats it: this is vanity, and it is an evil disease.*
3. *If a man beget a hundred children, and live many years, so that the days of his years be many, and his soul be not filled with good, and also that he have no burial; I say, that an untimely birth is better than he.*
4. *For he comes in with vanity, and departs in darkness and his name shall be covered with darkness.*
5. *Moreover he has not seen the sun, or known anything: this has more rest than the other*
6. *Yea, though he live a thousand years twice told, yet has he seen no good: do not all go to one place?*
7. *All the labor of man is for his mouth, and yet the appetite is not filled.*
8. *For what has the wise more than the fool? What has the poor that knows to walk before the living?*
9. *Better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of the desire: this is also vanity and vexation of spirit.*
10. *That which hath been is named already, and it is known that it is man: neither may he contend with him that is mightier than he.*
11. *Seeing there be many things that increase vanity, what is man the better?*
12. *For who knows what is good for man in this life, all the days of his vain life which he spends as a shadow? For who can tell a man what shall be after him under the sun?*

Vs 1 'There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, and it is common (literally the word is abundant) not among (but 'to' or 'in' Adam)'.
It's abundant in Adam. So this evil that he is talking about is something that is abundant or common to humanity; would you agree with that? He had seen something that is very common to humanity.

Vs 2 'A man to whom god gives riches, wealth, and honor (or literally 'glory') so that he lacks nothing for his soul of all that he desires, yet God gives him (or permits him) not power to eat thereof, but a stranger (or a strange man eats it.) This is vanity or it's an evil disease' (The word disease could be called calamity, anxiety, or a malady.) He said all these things I see and they are common in humanity, but he said they are evil and they are vanity. And what is the word 'vanity'? It is something transitory; it is something unfulfilling and unsatisfying.

So all the things that this life has to offer us are still only transitory at best. They are temporary; it is nothing that will fulfill us and give us the life that we truly desire. And you will see in the rest of this passage as we go along, that a man labored for what? All of man's labor goes for what? His mouth. But what did it say about the rest of it? I will get to it in a minute. *'Yet his appetite is not filled'*. The word 'appetite' isn't appetite; it's his 'soul'. All we are doing is laboring that our mouth be filled and we are not really worrying about satisfying the desires of the soul, which is really the spirit within us. That is what I am speaking of. The spirit of man inside of here is not being fed by all the labors of our earthly walk, is it? What I labor and put in my mouth does not feed my spirit man. Does it feed yours? It's what I know about God. The revelation of God in my life is what feeds me and makes me grow; it has nothing to do with the food that I stick in my mouth.

Vs 3 (Living Bible) Even if a man has a hundred sons and many daughters and live to be very old, but leaves so little money at his death that his children can't even give him a decent burial, I say it would be better off if he were born dead. It's telling you the truth here. He is saying that all this labor we are doing, is not for us to waste is it? The book says that we should lay up for our children's children. Not just our children but our children's children. Who is that? It's our grandchildren. We should have something prepared for our grandchildren, because God has blessed us abundantly. I mean, even the poorest person has more than most people in the world in this country. This country has not taught us anything. This country does not teach us discipline and stewardship; you just blow it and get another check next month. There is a little bit of truth in that theory 'don't live for tomorrow' but they aren't living for this evening. I mean they are just living for the absolute present right now; if I have it now it's okay and if I don't have it, I don't know what I'll do. There is no preparation. We do have to do some things; we do have to be good stewards of what God has given us don't we? Back to verse three:

'If a man begat a hundred children and lived many years so that the days of his years be many, and his soul be not filled with good, and also that he have no burial; I say, that an untimely birth (or literally a miscarriage or an abortion) is better off than he. He is saying that it is better than living a long life and not accomplishing what God has set forth for us to do, what good is it? I haven't accomplished, I have not satisfied this soul that he has placed within me. There is a purpose for everybody here. And that is where most of the talent that God has placed in this earth has ended up in a cemetery because no one knows what they're doing. They don't seek out what God wants them to do; they just want to exist. Existing is not good enough. I know as a child I had things in me that I could not understand; I understand more now, but God took me on the course; it was hard. It's hard. We

were talking about my grandson a while ago, he doesn't understand all of this stuff God is doing right now, and it's hard on him. But if God didn't have a call and a purpose for his life, he couldn't be going through it. But he does know one thing, out of all the family he has a grandfather and a grandmother that love him unconditionally and they love him enough to correct him and will always be the rock there. When every one else is in turmoil and every one else is in emotions all wound up and biting and snarling and fighting, Papaw and Mamaw will stand there for him. We are going to be the example in his life that when he gets older he is going to desire the peace that we have in our life. Don't tell me he can't see it. When he comes here he is calm and peaceful, when he's other places he's wired. Tell me that our spirit doesn't affect other people; it affects them. We don't get caught up in all the things that the world throws at us; we just walk in peace. We're not being that thermometer we are being that thermostat we are regulating what they are doing, we are not going to let them take us and run us around. It's not going to happen. I cannot be a Son of God and walk in that and let that affect me.

Vs 4 'For (or because) he comes in vanity (the word 'with' shouldn't be there.) He's transitory, he's unsatisfied and he's empty. That is the way we come into this world. We're empty. Didn't Job say we come in naked and naked we shall return? 'And we depart in darkness' (ignorance). We come in empty and we leave in ignorance. That means we're still empty doesn't it? We still don't have the knowledge of God in our lives. 'And his name shall be covered with darkness (or literally in 'death'). When we die it's all gone, there is nothing here, it doesn't mean anything, it's all vanity, it's all gone, isn't it.

Vs 5 'And moreover he that has not seen the sun, nor anything, this has more rest than the other'. He is saying, the man who comes in and lives that hundred years, or a thousand years, or two thousand years and has a hundred kids and all this stuff is heaped up, that one that died that has a seed is better off. He has never seen the natural son; he is better off than the one who had to live through all of this stuff. Wouldn't you all agree with that at times? What you're going through? You wouldn't wish it on anyone. That's what he is trying to tell us.

*Vs 6 'Yea, though he live a thousand years twice told, and he has seen no good do not all go to one place'? Where do they all go? To the same place. In chapter 12:7 of this book, it says that *the dust returns to the earth from where it came, the spirit returns to God who gave it.* So where is everybody going? Good or bad they are going back to God. The flesh goes to the dust, the spirit returns to God.*

Vs 7 'All the labor of man ('Adam') is for his mouth (the natural man) it's all for his mouth. I mean, why do you labor? It's because you're hungry. 'And yet his

soul is not filled' (or his spirit is not taken care of). You know how many people in the church today are running around and their spirit, if you could see them, would just be a rack of bones. They have spiritual depth; let me put it this way; they are a half-inch deep and three miles wide. That means they are very shallow, they don't have any depth in what they are saying. They're repeating or they're regurgitating what someone has told them to say. I would rather be in the first grade and at least know what I know in the first grade than go through college and have nothing except for what someone else said. The whole purpose of teaching today is for you to learn how to think; not to memorize all the volumes of information and regurgitate it upon command. Will that do you any good? I need to know how to think. And today most of the world, including the church or per se 'church' does not know how to think. They don't know how to think like God. If they had the mind of Christ opened up within them, could they do it? Sure they could, but they don't have the mind of Christ. People have to learn how to think, and if I don't know how God thinks, how could I compare it with my thinking process. That's why everybody thinks that everything they hear in their mind is God. There are a lot of people that think that isn't there? They think its God just because they hear a voice in their head. There's the deception. *My sheep hear my voice, and the voice of another they will not follow.* We have to learn the difference between what our mind is speaking and what God is saying, because God will never contradict this book. He never will. I have people to tell me all kind of horrendous things that God tells them. And you know what? It's not true. God's Book tells me different. Who do I believe, this Book and the Spirit that witnesses within me, that it is correct; or do I believe what everybody else says? I have to stay with God.

Why do you think we have twenty-two thousand plus denominations in the world? It's because everybody is listening to what they say instead of what He says. And I think He said, "It's finished." Didn't He? Then He has already said everything He is going to say about it. It's finished. He is going to repeat what He said, but He is not going to add anything new to it; it's the same word. If He was changing, then He wouldn't be God would He? Doesn't He say, "I change not"? There is no changing in Him. You've got to believe Him.

Vs 8 'Because what has the wise more than the fool? What has the poor that knows to walk before the living?' What has the wise person got more than the fool, except that he knows to walk before God? What has the poor that knows to walk before the living? What does the poor man have that knows to walk before the living God? What does he have? He has God, he knows God. The one who is poor and doesn't care about that, but has a relationship with God, what does he have?

He has everything; he has it all. We don't have to worry about anything. It's not about your meat or drink is it? The Kingdom of God is not in meat and drink, but in righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost or the Holy Spirit, that is where everything is. This is all temporal; and we put so much emphasis upon the natural things that we see, and not the internal things that are important, because of the natural man, society has pressured and pressured and pressured us; this peer pressure; you gotta do, you gotta have, you gotta accumulate, and you gotta make all this stuff. Why? Who said so?

Vs 9 'Better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of the 'soul' this is also vanity and vexation (literally a grasping after the spirit). They are just grasping after it; grasping into the air, trying to get a hold of something, and that is what the church has done for years. For two thousand years they've done this or that and if it didn't work then they would try something else. Well how about let's listen to God??? I mean that sounds pretty simple doesn't it? If we need an answer, what should we do? Listen to God. Isn't it so simple? But what does the church do? Well, we'll have a prayer session; somebody in the prayer session says well I think we ought to have a fund raiser. We ought to add an extension on to the building, put a new parking lot in, lets start a new group; lets do something. They can't listen to God. Anything and everything will come up except for the one thing we should be doing and that is listening to God. Be still and know that I am God. You see if we will just be still, guess what we will know? We will know that He is God in the midst of us; in the midst of our tribulations; in the midst of our anguish, where will He be? He'll be on His throne. If we will be still, we will know that He is God. He'll be right there, right in the middle of everything, He will be sitting there in peace.

Vs 10 'That which has been is named 'long ago' and it is known what 'Adam' is. It is known what Adam is, that is 'man' literally is what 'Adam' is. Neither can he 'guard, or quarrel, or plead' equally with him that is mightier than he. What is he saying? That you can't argue with God. It says in Isaiah 'Come let us reason together' (English language again.) Do you think God is going to reason with the mind of humanity? Come on. We have lowered God to the level of humanity. We have in our intellect, in our religious world; we have lowered God down to our level. No, No that is not the plan; the purpose is to elevate us to His level. He is going to bring us up. What does the Spirit say in the Book of Revelation? Come on up, come on up here; come on up. In Hillbilly it's 'Come on up yawl.' Come on up. We have got to find out that God is trying to elevate us out of this earthly death realm into the spirit realm. It's not about Him lowering Himself here, He has already done that, but we have to elevate our mind into the spirit. We can't

contend with Him; there is no contention in God. You see, in our thinking, a lot of times the church perpetrates this big bad devil is running around and he almost has got God on the ropes. Now that is what they teach. If you listen to them they say 'the devil has just taken the whole world'. Hmmm my book says God owns everything. What's wrong? Somebody's thinking is not elevated is it? They still think that He has an enemy; God has no real enemy. The only enemy God has is our minds. It's what we think. Do you really think God is concerned about what we think against Him? Do you think God loses any sleep over what we think? What we say or what we do? We can't offend God; He is beyond humanity. This is humanity; it does not affect God.

Vs 11 *'Seeing there be many things (or many words) 'things' should be 'words'. See there be many words that increase vanity or emptiness or transitory and unsatisfactory, it's the empty feeling you have. What is man the better? Or literally let me read it this way: Seeing there be many words that increase vanity, what is the profit for man? What are all these words profiting us? I mean, my God, go on the Internet now; this information highway. What are all these words profiting man? It's consuming them; I will give you that. Lives are destroyed. The Internet is a wonderful tool if we use it wisely. Anything in moderation is fine. But it's when we let ourselves be consumed by something. There are people that are sitting and they are vegetating, becoming a houseplant; they can't even go outside. I know people that almost never get off the computer, they have a job in their own home and when they get done they just get on the Internet and just play, play, play, play till 5, 6, or 7 o'clock in the morning and pass out and then try to get back up by 10:00 to open their business. They never sleep. So all of these words and all these things, this understanding we have, what good is it? If I learn every language on the face of this earth, if I have all the knowledge of every doctor and every lawyer possesses, what good would it do me? Humanity would say, 'oh, he's a wise guy'. No, I would just be a vault of information. If I have no wisdom how to use it properly, what good is it? Wisdom is the ability to use the knowledge that you have. A lot of people have knowledge but they don't have the wisdom to use it properly so it gets wasted.*

Vs 12 *'For who knows what is good for 'Adam' in this life'. Who knows what's good for Adam, 'Adam' speaking of the natural man. Who knows what's good for this man? Not 'all' the days of his vain life but 'few are', the language literally says, 'few are the days of his vain life'. Isn't that what James said? 'This life is but a vapor'. Just zip and it's gone. 'Which he spends as a shadow?' Now how did that question mark get in there? There is nothing questioning about that. Is there? Is there a question there? 'For who knows what is good for Adam, in this life, few*

are the days of his vain life, which he spends as a shadow. ' What is this life about? What is he telling you there? This life is a what? It's a shadow. A shadow is not a reality is it? We had a lady in our Fellowship tell me this: "I got a hold of it. This life is just a big stage and everything on it is props in this life, it's not real." And I said that is exactly what it is, that is exactly what he is saying here. Isn't it? It's all vanity, it's not a reality, it's a shadow; it's not the reality of life, is it? Life is not in this flesh; it is in this spirit that is within this flesh. We have to see what made the shadow. Do you know what you have to have to have a shadow? Two things: You have to have light and you have to have an object. The object is us, and He is casting the light which is making the shadow. And we are watching the shadow instead of looking to the reality. We have got to get our thinking turned around if we are ever going to get ourselves straight in this life. *'Because who can tell a man 'Adam' what shall be after him under the sun?'* Or literally, what is his future under the sun? Who can tell Adam what his future is? The dust shall return to the dust. Come on; what is Adam's future, under the sun? Back to the dust from where he came. But the spirit returns to God, Adam is a natural man, the dust man; his destiny is the dust. Do you understand that? My flesh has got a place to go; it has a purpose and a place to go, a destiny; and that is right back where it came from: the dust, in the ground. But that which is inside of me and that which is inside of you also has a purpose and a destiny, and it is to return to your Father. That ought to make everybody happy. And I know, people can read this all day long and never see it. But it is as simple as it can be. *The dust returns to the dust from where it came, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.* And I can't find any place else in between that it says you are going to go to a place and stay for a while. I can't find it, is it in there? It's in Ecclesiastes 3:21; 12:7, and also in 6:6. It says they all go to one place. If all go to one place, are we all going to hell or are we going back with our Father? Come on, we have to get past all this stuff that we have been told. It's not real. Someone made it up. Someone has lied to us and we believe it sometimes. The problem is not being misled; the problem is making an idol out of what someone told us.

There was a man that came in my life one time and I said it before and I will say it again. He asked me a question and it turned my life around. He let me preach to him for forty-five minutes about all of the religious garbage that I was speaking of at the time. And he asked me this simple question. Now if I'm standing on the foundation of Christ, what could knock me off of it? **Nothing**. And this man asked me a simple question: **"Do you really believe that?"** And he just smiled at me. And you couldn't have took a sledgehammer and hit me between the eyes and knocked me any more unconscious. And I just walked away and I never even answered him, I couldn't answer him. I kind of believe that maybe he was an

angel, because I had never seen him before and I've never seen him since. I think God may have sent me a messenger to talk to me. And all I know is this man spoke to me and I never seen him before or since, and it was right here in my own town. This man changed my life by making me look at what I was saying, and I know that God taught me through that. And if I can get you, encourage you, or stir you up to check everything that you think you believe. (Now many times we think we believe something until the light is put on it.) How many of us had things in our life that we thought we believed until God shined the light and then it wasn't there anymore? Many things. All I want you to do is to look at everything you have been told; everything I tell you, look at it; don't take my word for it. Look at it yourself and let God show you the truth. Now how much better could it be than having you get shown the truth? Could there be anything better than that? Because once you see it, no one can take it away from you. I can only do what God shows me, I can show what He shows me, but you have to see it yourself. You can take a horse to water but you can't make him drink can you? I just want you to be stirred up to the point that you can look at everything. Don't be afraid to look at anything.

I had this woman call me a few weeks ago and she said, 'Oh Dave, I'm afraid you are going to get mixed up with New Age.' And I said, 'Well, why is that?' And she said, 'I heard on one of your tapes that you said you had dinner with someone who was New Age. I said, 'Is it contagious?' Is New Age contagious? Is it some kind of disease that you sit at the table and it jumps over on you and now you're a New Ager? Come one! Jesus spoke to all people didn't He? He never shunned anyone because of what they believed or of their false beliefs did He? And I asked her this, "what is the difference between a New Ager and a Baptist"? Because a Baptist doesn't have the truth either. They have pieces just like New Age. New Age has got some pieces too. What is the difference between a Baptist, a Pentecostal, a Methodist, or a Catholic or anything? Why should I be afraid to sit down with anybody who is one of my brothers and sisters? Is it just because they think differently than I do? And it was just because I said I had dinner with someone who said they were a New Ager. It was like 'oooooh, you should be scared of them'. You see it was in her thinking; and she thinks she is elevated into the spirit realm. Well if I'm in the spirit what can touch me? Nothing. *Nothing by any means shall hurt you.* We'll tread on those serpents and scorpions. So, guess what? We have got to come to the place where we look for ourselves. To be Kings and Priests we must do what? Search the Scriptures.

Proverbs 25:2 *it's the glory of God to conceal the matter, but the honor of Kings is to search it out.* **The word.** We have to do it ourselves. We can't keep letting someone pour stuff into us and then all we do is keep regurgitating or repeating

what someone else says; It's just like a parrot. It has to become a reality in our life. It can no longer be playing this game of 'whatever the preacher said.' That doesn't cut it. Nobody wants to go in on someone's coattail. They want you to do that. I want you to walk it out yourself. I found something out: When God separated me from the religious system do you know what happened? I had to learn to feed myself because there was no one else to do it. Either I am going to lie down and die, or I am going to find something to eat. Does that make sense? If you go out in the wilderness and there is no one there to cook a meal for you, what are you going to do? I am going to find some kind of root or shrub, or bug, or something that will nourish me to keep me alive, until I can get where I'm going. It's the same with us. I want to instill in you the desire to feed yourself. And I know this, when you get enough to eat, you will find someone to share it with. I know what is going to happen, because you can't keep this to yourself. Once you find the truth in God, and the liberty, and the freedom in God, you can't keep it to yourself. I've said it a hundred, or maybe a thousand times to God: Why did you show me this? You know I can't keep my mouth shut. As soon as you show it to me I am going to go out and blab it to someone else, and then I'm going to get fire for it." And He says, "I Know. That's what I want."

If we have this truth and never share it, we will never be persecuted. Right? We won't be persecuted. I'll have my napkin, and have my talent all wrapped up and hid in my earth; nobody will persecute me. But if I go out and tell, then I am going to be persecuted and that is an opportunity for me to show the nature of God in me. Every time someone comes against me, it gives me an opportunity to show the nature of God in me. Every time someone comes against me, it's given me an opportunity. It's not 'poor me' no, it's my opportunity to shine; and to let the Son shine out of me. Can you see it? That's our opportunity, and it's the way we look through our eyes: Is it someone hurting me, beating me up, or are they giving me an opportunity? I take it as an opportunity. Bless God, Thank You Father for letting me eat my bread in separation, pain, sorrow and suffering and misery. Thank You. Because you know why? I know I'm a Son of God, I fit the pattern. I can walk it out and you can too.