

Vanity of Vanities, Saith the Preacher

- I. "Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity." (**Ecc 1:2**)
- II. Vanity, vanity.
 1. Vanity - 1. a. That which is vain, futile, or worthless; that which is of no value or profit.
 2. Vain *adj.* - I. 1. Devoid of real value, worth, or significance; idle, unprofitable, useless, worthless; of no effect, force, or power; fruitless, futile, unavailing.
 3. Useless *adj.* - 1. Of things, actions, etc.: Destitute of useful qualities; serving no good end or profitable purpose; not answering or promoting the proposed or desired end; unserviceable, ineffectual, inutile.
 4. Futile *adj.* - 1. Incapable of producing any result; failing utterly of the desired end through intrinsic defect; useless, ineffectual, vain.
- III. Life is vanity.
 1. Life is full of labour and men's eyes are never satisfied (**Ecc 1:8 c/w Pro 27:20; Ecc 4:7-8**).
 2. There's nothing new under the sun (**Ecc 1:9**).
 3. Nobody will remember you when you're gone (**Ecc 1:11; Ecc 2:16; Ecc 9:5; Job 24:20**).
 4. All things that are done under the sun are vanity and vexation of spirit (**Ecc 1:14**).
 5. Vexation - 1. The action of troubling or harassing by aggression or interference (sometimes *spec.* by unjustifiable claims or legal action); the fact of being troubled or harassed in this way.
 6. You can be the wisest and most knowledgeable person in the world (**Ecc 1:16**).
 - A. But it will still all be vexation of spirit (**Ecc 1:17**).
 - B. The more wisdom and knowledge you acquire, the more grief and sorrow you will have (**Ecc 1:18**).
 7. Mirth, pleasure, and laughter are vanity (**Ecc 2:1-2**).
 8. Houses, gardens, orchards, servants, great possessions, money, and entertainment are all vanity and without profit (**Ecc 2:4-11**).
 9. The same things happen all.
 - A. It matters not whether one is a wise man or a fool (**Ecc 2:15**).
 - B. It matters not whether one is a just man or a wicked man (**Ecc 7:15; Ecc 8:14**).
 - C. Whether righteous or wicked, clean or unclean, religious or profane, a good man or a sinner - all things happen alike to all (**Ecc 9:2**).
 - D. All is vanity!
 10. You work and save all your life only to leave it to someone else (**Ecc 2:18**).
 - A. And he may turn out to be a fool who will squander all for which you worked so hard (**Ecc 2:19**).
 - B. This is vanity! (**Ecc 2:21**)
 11. There is wickedness in the courts and there is iniquity in the churches (**Ecc 3:16**).
 12. Men act like beasts while they live and then they return to dust like beasts when they die (**Ecc 3:18-20**).
 13. The poor are oppressed by the powerful and they have no comforter (**Ecc 4:1**).
 - A. It's better to be dead! (**Ecc 4:2**)
 - B. Better yet, it's better to have never been born! (**Ecc 4:3**)
 14. When you do the right thing, you are envied of your neighbor (**Ecc 4:4**).
 15. You labour to increase your goods, and all they are good for is to look at them (**Ecc 5:11**).

16. Though a man acquires much riches, he leaves this world naked as he came and can take none of it with him (**Ecc 5:13-16**).
17. God gives men riches, wealth, and honour, but gives it to another man to enjoy (**Ecc 6:1-2**).
 - A. You can't have your cake and eat it too.
 - B. This is vanity!
18. Man labours endlessly, but his appetite is never filled (**Ecc 6:7**) and the wise man has nothing over the fool (**Ecc 6:8**).
19. Our vain life is but a shadow (**Ecc 6:12**).
 - A. It's a vapour (**Jam 4:14**).
 - B. Our days are like the days of an hireling (**Job 7:1**).
 - C. Not only are our days few, they are full of trouble! (**Job 14:1**)
 - D. Man is born unto trouble (**Job 5:7**).
 - E. Jacob summed it up well, "few and evil" are the days our lives (**Gen 47:9**).
20. Though a man try to understand the work of God, he shall not find it (**Ecc 8:17**).
21. The hearts of men are full of evil and madness is in their heart while they live, and after that they die (**Ecc 9:3**).
22. Men don't get ahead in life by hard work and wisdom, but by mere chance (**Ecc 9:11**).
23. A reputation takes years to build and seconds to destroy (**Ecc 10:1**).
24. Folly is set in dignity (**Ecc 10:5-6**).
25. The NSA hears our every word (**Ecc 10:20**).
26. Even if we live many years and rejoice in them all, it's still all vanity (**Ecc 11:8**).
27. Childhood and youth are vanity (**Ecc 11:9-10**).
28. Old age is vanity and evil (**Ecc 12:1**).
 - A. You can't see (**Ecc 12:2**).
 - B. You can't work (**Ecc 12:3**).
 - C. You can't sleep or hear (**Ecc 12:4**).
 - D. You lose your courage; you're scared to drive; you lose your strength and your sex drive (**Ecc 12:5**).
 - E. And after that you die (**Ecc 12:6-7**).
29. "Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher; all is vanity." (**Ecc 12:8**).

IV. Let us hear the conclusion.

1. Why not leave church and jump in front of a bus after hearing this sermon on the vanity of life?
2. Why live?
3. Because your life is not your own, you were bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit (**1Co 6:19-20**).
4. Present your body as a living sacrifice to God which is your reasonable service (**Rom 12:1**).
5. Our labour for God is not *in vain* (**1Co 15:58**).
6. "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." (**Ecc 12:13**)