

# Life Under the Sun: The Message of Ecclesiastes

Lakewood Presbyterian Church

Lesson 2  
Ecclesiastes 1:3-2:26  
(5-18-25)

**Key Idea:** Like the Rolling Stones said, we can't get no satisfaction from any created thing, no matter how cunning, debased, debauched or industrious we become.

## I. BACKGROUND: THE STRUCTURE AND ARGUMENT OF ECCLESIASTES

- A. Four major sections: \_\_\_\_\_  
(1:2-2:26; 3:1-5:20; 6:1-8:15; 8:16-12:14)
- B. Vanity / *hebel* refers to v\_\_\_\_\_ or s\_\_\_\_\_ not *absolute* meaninglessness.
- C. All this *hebel* is done u\_\_\_\_\_ the s\_\_\_\_\_.
- D. The conclusions of each section build on one another and give the answer to the p\_\_\_\_\_ of life "u\_\_\_\_\_ the s\_\_\_\_\_."
- E. We are going to look at Section #1, which is made up of three sub\_\_\_\_\_:  
(1:3-11; 1:12-2:11; 2:12-26)

## II. THE ENDLESS RIVER (1:3-11)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Key idea them to this section: "Nature r\_\_\_\_\_ herself, again and again, for no particular r\_\_\_\_\_ that we can perceive" Douglas Wilson, *Joy at the End of the Tether*, p38

## III. SOLOMON'S GREAT EXPERIMENT (1:12-2:11)

- A. Solomon sets forth his credentials and a reaches a preliminary conclusion (2:12-18)
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

- B. Consider the details of Solomon's great experiment (2:19-11)
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Key idea them to this section: "Solomon knows through hard experience that s\_\_\_\_\_ is e\_\_\_\_\_" Douglas Wilson, *Joy at the End of the Tether*, p38

#### IV. WISDOM IS BETTER THAN FOLLY (2:12-23)

When you're smart and you know it \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

When you're food for worms and you know it \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

When your son is an idiot and he doesn't know it \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Key idea them to this section: "Wisdom is better, but only God k\_\_\_\_\_ w\_\_\_\_\_"

Douglas Wilson, *Joy at the End of the Tether*, p38

#### V. THE FIRST CONCLUDING REFRAIN (2:24-26)

A. Correcting a poor translation \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

B. What makes the meaninglessness meaningful?

(1) How was / is ole' Mick right? Apart from God everything is un\_\_\_\_\_

(2) How was / is Mick wrong? \_\_\_\_\_