

Living Wisely in a Worrisome World

#4 The Quest

Ecclesiastes 3:16-4:16

Steve King, Senior Pastor

In this vain world, _____ from God and be

Eccl 4:7-16

In this wicked world, _____ God and be _____.

Eccl 3:16-22

In this oppressive world, _____ in God and be

Eccl 4:1-6

Reflection questions:

Monday: Read Eccl 3:16-4:16 and identify the key ideas in each of the three sections; 3:16-22; 4:1-6; 4:7-16. Look for repeated words and ties with the overall themes in the book: vanity, God's justice, sovereignty and goodness, and the call to live a God-centered life.

Tuesday: Read Eccl 3:16-22. How does the passage build toward the key ideas in verse 22? How does the passage reflect truths from Genesis 1-3? How are the longings in the passage fulfilled in Jesus Christ (John 5:25-29; Matthew 6:25-34)?

Wednesday: Read Eccl 4:1-6. What terms indicate that the author is on a quest? Note the pattern of observations and then proverbial conclusions. What is his central thesis? Note the three contrasts in verse 5-6: fool/sluggard; two fists full of labor/workaholic; one hand full of rest/enjoy your labor. How can you apply this (Colossians 3:23-25)?

Thursday: Read Eccl 4:7-16. What is the point of his three observations (4:7-8; 9-12; 13-16)? What do you learn from this about human nature? How does loving God and people through faith in Christ influence how you respond to parallel situations as these in your own life? (Matt 22:37-40; 1 Corinthians 10:31)

Friday: Read Eccl 3 and 4. Describe in a few sentences the central idea being communicated in these chapters. What do they teach you about God, people, the future, and how to live?

Saturday: Read Eccl 5:1-7 and glean at least three insights from the text. (And bring a friend with you to church tomorrow!)