



## Study Guide – Ecclesiastes Session 1

Week Commencing 13<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Please read Ecclesiastes Chapters 1&2

1. Why do you think this book is in the bible (alongside Proverbs and Job as Wisdom Writings)?

Please read again ch1.5-11

2. Do you ever feel like this too? What do these feelings of frustration say about the deeper longings of our hearts?

**Ch1.3** "What do people gain from all their labours at which they toil under the sun"

**Ch2.11** "Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun"

3. What meaning do you think he was looking to gain from his toil? And why then was that experience like chasing after the wind?

**Please read again ch2.24-25** *The compulsive worker – overloading their days with toil and their night with worry – is missing the simple joys that God is handing out to them each day – a job, friendship, family, a good meal, a sunny day. What has tyrannised the worker can be rescued as a joyful gift from God, to be appreciated and valued for what it is. What spoils work is our attempt to gain from it more than it can give.*

4. What do you think about this?

**Ch1.18** "For with much wisdom comes much sorrow; the more knowledge, the more grief." *The Teacher is someone who refuses to be satisfied with simplistic, slick, predictable answers for God and for life. He tries to hold together those things which are understandable about God and those things which are unfathomable, in the real-life experience of life.*

5. Why do you think the pursuit of this deeper wisdom causes him sorrow and grief? How do you feel about pursuing this path?

*"From the New Testament perspective, it is true to say that Christ will one day banish all confusion and futility. But until he comes again and all things are renewed, faith in the grace of God must sustain us through many incomprehensible tensions in our experience. We know our final goal with its resolution of all ills, but we don't know what tomorrow brings. The Teacher bids us take a day at a time and enjoy it with its toil as a gift from God. We will learn to walk not only in light of his certainty, but also of his sovereignty and mystery." Greame Goldsworthy, Gospel and Wisdom*