

“Vanity of vanities,”
says the Preacher.
“Vanity of vanities,
all is vanity.”
—ECCLESIASTES 1:2 NKJV

01.tif

A Conclusion

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³What profit has a man from all
his labor in which he toils under
the sun? ⁴One generation
passes away, and another
generation comes but the earth
abides forever.

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⁵The sun also rises, and the sun
goes down, and hastens to the
place where it arose. ⁶The wind
goes toward the south, and turns
around to the north; the wind
whirls about continually, and
comes again on its circuit.

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⁷All the rivers run into the sea,
yet the sea is not full; to the
place from which the rivers
come, there they return again.
⁸All things are full of labor; man
cannot express it.

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The eye is not satisfied with
seeing, nor the ear filled with
hearing. ⁹That which has been
is what will be, that which is
done is what will be done,
and there is nothing new
under the sun.

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¹⁰Is there anything of which it
may be said, "See, this is
new?" It has already been in
ancient times before us.
—ECCLESIASTES 1:3-10 NKJV

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"We humans cannot bear
very much reality."
—T.S. ELIOT

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"The mass of men
lead lives of quiet
desperation."
—HENRY DAVID THOREAU

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"The mass of men lead
lives of active desperation
and dissatisfaction."

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A Confession

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Ecclesiastes 1:13-14

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Ecclesiastes 2:3-4, 7-8, 10-11

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S
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Sex
Power
Achievement
Money

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¹⁰Whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, for my heart rejoiced in all my labor; and this was my reward from all my labor.

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¹¹Then I looked on all the works that my hands had done and on the labor in which I had toiled; and indeed all was vanity and grasping for the wind. There was no profit under the sun.
—ECCLESIASTES 2:10-11 NKJV

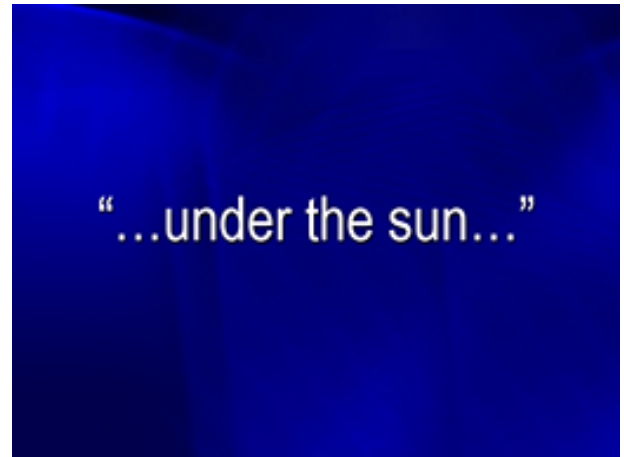
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¹²Then I turned myself to consider wisdom and madness and folly; for what can the man do who succeeds the king?—only what he has already done.
—ECCLESIASTES 2:10-12 NKJV

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"You live in a world of personal computers and search engines, e-mail and network, capacity and storage, research and retrieval, entertainment and commerce, chat rooms and websites, MySpace..."

25.tif

"You're manned with PDAs that take pictures, remember your tastes, indulge your whimsies and play your favorite tunes. You have video on demand and songs on a chip and games on a screen. You have bloggers that blabber and blogs that enlighten."

26.tif

"You're exposed to high depth and lowbrow. You are the masters of a new universe whose boundaries are yet to be determined. But it's also important to remember that it will do us little good to wire the world if we short-circuit our souls."

—TOM BROKAW

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"holes in their souls"

28.tif

If my life is so full,
why do I feel so empty?

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"The meager satisfaction that a man can extract from reality leaves him starving."

—SIGMUND FREUD

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⁷Light is sweet, and it is pleasant for the eyes to see the sun. ⁸So if a person lives many years, let him rejoice in them all; but let him remember that the days of darkness will be many. All that comes is vanity.

—ECCLESIASTES 11:7-8 ESV

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A Connection

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Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before the difficult days come, and the years draw near when you say, "I have no pleasure in them."

—ECCLESIASTES 12:1 NKJV

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He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

—ECCLESIASTES 3:11 ESV

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A Conviction

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¹³Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter:
Fear God and keep His commandments,
for this is man's all.

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¹⁴For God will bring every work
into judgment,
including every secret thing,
whether good or evil.
—ECCLESIASTES 12:13-14 NKJV

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²³“Let not the wise man glory in
his wisdom, let not the mighty
man glory in his might, nor let
the rich man glory in his riches;
²⁴but let him who glories glory in
this, that he understands and
knows Me, that...

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“I am the LORD, exercising
lovingkindness, judgment, and
righteousness in the earth.
For in these I delight,”
says the LORD.
—JEREMIAH 9:23-24 NKJV

39.tif

“There is a God-shaped vacuum
in the heart of every man which
cannot be filled by any created
thing, but only by God, the
Creator, made known through
Jesus.” —BLAISE PASCAL

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A Commitment

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