

STUDIES IN ECCLESIASTES

Valley Bible Chapel

DVBS
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I. An Introductory Note:

Ecclesiastes is a fascinating book---part of the poetical literature of the Old Testament and in the division known as "Megilloth", the rolls. It is a book of human experience under the sovereignty to God. The author is Solomon, the great king and the author of Proverbs and the Song of Solomon. We are told by tradition that he wrote the Song while young and thoughtful of the expectation of God, that he wrote the Proverbs, not as a single book, but as an overall collection of wise sayings gathered by the scribes and prophets of his court and that he wrote Ecclesiastes near the end of life when he saw his erroneous conduct of his passing years and wrote regretfully to show that when the Lord is not supreme in the issues of life, nothing is ultimately meaningful no matter how rich one may become or what social status one might enjoy. Knowing the Lord in obedience, worship, and love is the key to harmonious living in all identifiable parts of life. For this reason the book is enormously practical as a guideline regarding what is really important in life and that is why we are looking at it in this DVBS.

In a short synthesis then, the message of Ecclesiastes is the advice of a great teacher helping us to get the most out of life by putting our best efforts on the things of greatest value.

The talks are organized on this line:

- 1, An Unhappy Failure: The Career of Solomon
2. The Value of Knowledge
3. Being a Responsible Person in a Vacillating Society
4. Controlling Ambition and Goals
5. Enjoying Realities as You See Them
6. Letting Every Circumstance be an Opportunity for Growth.

These are the great values in life. For each of them I will offer Scriptures from the book and a series on analytical concepts. Our work is not sociological in that it attempts to meet all of society's need but it does try to show what the most meaningful values are as given in the text of Ecclesiastes. Questions are welcome at any time and individual matters may be discussed at break time. No, I will not be too tired to talk to anyone....I may look tired....it is a defense I have developed to a fine degree...but I do not need it here! At the close of these notes you will find an Ecclesiastical Dictionary and some suggestions of study as well as some identification that I believe are very difficult in interpretation.