



# Ecclesiastes

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## Lesson 13 Study Notes – Ecclesiastes 6: 1-12

### Pray

### Reflect

1. Is life a dead-end street? Sometimes, it seems to be, especially when we don't reach our goals or when we reach our goals but don't feel fulfilled in our achievement, and there is no satisfaction in our soul. Perhaps the basic problem is that life confronts us with too many mysteries we can't fathom... and too many puzzles we can't solve. For life to be satisfying, it must make sense or we get frustrated. *Read Ecclesiastes 6.* Keep in mind the Preacher still speaks from his "under the sun" premise. While he mentions God; he has no eternal perspective in mind. What are the 2 mysteries recognizes in **verses 1-9**?

A.

B.

2. More than one person in the Bible became so discourage with life that he either wanted to die or wished he had never been born. Read about these biblical characters, who at one time wanted to die or wished they'd never been born. What led to each of these people's struggle? How were their struggles similar to what Solomon was exploring in **Ecclesiastes 6**?

a. Moses (Num. 11: 15)

b. Elijah (1Kings 19: 4)

c. Job (Job 3: 21; 7: 15)

d. Jonah (Jonah 4: 3)

e. Paul (2Cor. 1: 8-11)

3. Review ***Ecclesiastes 6: 1-6***. Here we have a person with riches, but no enjoyment. Why is it impossible to enjoy the gifts of God apart from God? What does it look like to attempt this? How is this idolatry? How is enjoyment with God different from enjoyment apart from God?

4. Solomon sees the life of labor (of the poor man) also does not satisfy (**v. 7-9**). Why is that the case?

5. The Preacher was not finished. He knew that life was also a dead-end street for a third kind of person... the person who required answers to all of life's questions. Review **verses 10-12**. Why is it futile to seek answers to all of life's questions? What's wrong with making the pursuit of knowledge a life goal? How do we find balance in this area of life?

## **Respond**

1. Are you more like Solomon's rich man, or the man who works hard but without satisfaction? Explain. What would Solomon tell you about your current relationship with wealth or the lack of it?

2. What are some of life's questions you wish you could answer? Would you be happy if you could answer all of the difficult questions? Why or why not? What would your faith life look like if you had all the answers? How does not knowing help you grow closer to God?