

**“All is Vanity”**  
*Sermon Notes*

The Preacher gives his report (2-3): **All life is *vanity (hevel)* under the sun.**

1) v. 4: \_\_\_\_\_

2) vv. 4-7: \_\_\_\_\_

3) v. 8: \_\_\_\_\_

4) v. 9-11: No \_\_\_\_\_

Who will fill this empty vacuum? \_\_\_\_\_ (Mark 8:27-38)!

*Life is vanity under the sun, until you \_\_\_\_\_ to gain the*

*Son of Man. Only through him will you gain \_\_\_\_\_.*

## **MEFC Community Group Study Questions**

For the week of September 27th-October 3rd

This week, we're going to use the COMA method of studying the Bible, with some adaptation to our text, Ecclesiastes 1:1-11. This method comes from Pastor David Helm in the book One-to-One Bible Reading.

### **Context**

What type of writing is this (letter, narrative, poem, wisdom, etc)? How does that impact our study?

Are there any clues about the circumstances in which the Preacher gave this lesson (hint: For instance, he had to have done something over time in order to get to gather these observations in verses 2-11)?

Are there any clues about the audience who first heard these words? How would these words have landed on an Israelite, perhaps hearing them at the temple of Jerusalem? Or would these words have been more comfortable in the Greek philosopher's hall?

### **Observation**

What ideas are repeated?

What images, illustrations, or metaphors does the Preacher use? What does he mean by them?

What observations does the Preacher help us make about the world around us - in mankind, creation, and history?

What are the major subjects/topics that the Preacher addresses, in sub-sections of this opening lesson?

How does the Preacher make his appeal? What is the tone of the passage? What emotions does the Preacher arouse in you?

### **Meaning**

The Preacher offers his thesis, "All is vanity...under the sun." How does he get us there? How would you capture or rephrase the idea of "vanity", given verses 2-11?

What does this passage teach us about God, mankind toiling under the sun, and the created earth/wind/water? In considering these questions, as people of faith and the Bible we ought ask - what's missing from this "secularistic" perspective? For instance, what does creation say about the Creator?

How does the passage look forward to Jesus, and life under the Son?

### **Application**

How does the main idea, "All is vanity under the sun," challenge or confirm your beliefs?

Is there some attitude you need to change? Given the message, what should your heart not desire?

How does the Preacher challenge you to change the way you live? Lead you to be loyal to King Jesus?