

CHRISTIAN PHILOSOPHY

INSTRUCTOR | Edward Tingley, PhD

OUTLINE OF SECTION 1 ECCLESIASTES

LESSON 3 | **How you think about life – Qohelet’s project** 45 minutes

A | *Purposelessness & human life*

1 | How do we respond to this view? – Three alternative responses 3:06

- Resist seeing life this way (because you agree with it)
- Reject Qohelet’s view
- Ignore the issue of pointlessness because ‘the point of life is life itself’

2 | What’s the use (benefit, gain, point) of such a life? 5:34

3 | Attitudes 9:59

B | *The danger of misplaced trust* 11:27

PROPOSITION **2** IT IS FOOLISHNESS (SENSELESS & EVEN DANGEROUS) TO
COUNT ON WHAT WILL LET YOU DOWN

C | *Qohelet’s projects* 12:35

1 | To examine our activities in this world 13:26

2 | Vain things (the referents of ‘vanity’) 14:50

- pleasure, work, abundance, dreams, desire (its wandering)

PROPOSITION **3** ELUSIVE, FLEETING, & DISSATISFYING ARE:
WORK, PLEASURE, MONEY, FRIENDSHIPS, MONEY,
ABUNDANCE, PROVISIONS, PLANS, DREAMS, DESIRE, ETC.

3 | To discover the good that man should do ‘under the heaven always’ 28:02

D | *The good that man should do*

1 | To see the hand of God 32:16

PROPOSITION **4** VAIN THINGS (THINGS THAT ARE ELUSIVE, FLEETING,
& DISSATISFYING) ARE A **GIFT OF GOD**

2 | To see through the illusion & face the world as it is 35:09

3 | To receive the gift of God (precisely as a way of seeing through the illusion & facing the world
as it is) 37:00

E | *A time for all things* 38:43

F | *Receive what is given* 41:25

PROPOSITION **5** IT IS **RIGHT & RIGHTEOUS TO ACCEPT GOD'S GIFT OF
VAIN THINGS & USE THESE THINGS**

WORKS CITED & FURTHER READING

ELLUL, Jacques. **Reason for Being: A Meditation on Ecclesiastes**. Grand Rapids, Michigan:
Eerdmans, 1990.

KREEFT, Peter. **Three Philosophies of Life**. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1989.

TOLSTOY, Leo. **A Confession**. Milton Keynes: White Crow, 2009.

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