

NOTHING NEW

During the month of September, we will study a special from the Book of Ecclesiastes entitled, **Life Under the Sun**.

The phrase “Under the Sun” is mentioned 28 times in the Book. It is mentioned in every chapter except chapters 7, 11, and 12.

An interesting biblical numerical factor is that there are 222 verses in the Book. The number 2 is the number of division based on the second day of creation – “And God made the expanse, and **separated** the waters which were below the expanse from the waters which were above the expanse; and it was so. And God called the expanse heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.” (Gen.1:7-8) (1:13; 2:3; 3:1) [under the heaven]

The reason I mention this is because it relates to our subject – **Life Under the Sun**.

Today’s lesson will study five aspects of Nothing New in life under sun as written by Solomon in the Book of Ecclesiastes.

1. There are three phrases that dominate the Book of Ecclesiastes: meaningless (vanity) and chasing the wind and under the sun.

All three are mentioned in 1:14 – “I have seen all the works which have been done **under the sun**, and behold, all is **vanity** (meaningless) and **striving** (chasing) **after the wind**.”

Notice that all three are used to describe – “all the works which have been done.” (1:14a)

Under the sun describes the individual’s activities or works covering his life’s span.

Meaningless (vanity) describes when these works are disconnected FROM the will of God.

Chasing the wind describes the empty pursuit of these works apart from God’s will.

“For who knows what is good for a man **during his life time**, during the few years of his futile life? He will spend them **like** a shadow. For who can tell a man what will be after him **under the sun**?” (6:12)

2. It is important to understand that Solomon’s life was divided into 2 sections: earlier and latter.

In the earlier years of his life, Solomon was a spiritual maturing believer pursuing God’s will in all of his works or life’s activities (1:12-13, 16) [read]

“So give Thy servant an understanding heart to judge Thy people to discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Thine?” And it was pleasing in the sight of the Lord that Solomon has asked this thing.” (1 King 3:9-10; **4:29-30**; 10:23-24; Matt.12:42)

What happened to cause Solomon to become so soured and pessimistic about Life Under the Sun?

3. In the latter years of his life, Solomon engaged in secondary negative volition and began running away from the will of God because of reversionism (back-sliding; Prov.14:14) (1 King 11:1-13).

Primary negative volition is refusal to attend the assembling for the study of God's word (Heb.10:25; 2 Tim.2:15).

Secondary negative volition is refusal to apply categorical bible doctrine to specific situations in CWL (Solomon regarding foreign wives and idolatry) (James 1:22-23; Heb.4:2; Gen.18:12-15).

"For it came about when Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods; and his heart was not wholly devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been." (11:4)

"And Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, and did not follow the Lord fully, as David his father had done." (11:6)

"So the Lord said to Solomon, 'Because you done this and you have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you, and will give it to your servant.'" (11:11)

Solomon describes this period of his life as "vanity of vanities" (NAS) or "Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless!" (NIV) (1:2; 12:8)

The Book of Ecclesiastes was written by Solomon to warn us of the futility of life under the sun of reversionism – "All things are wearisome; Man is not able to tell it. The eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor is the ear filled with hearing." (1:8) (sign of reversionism/ Matt.13:13-16)

4. In our lesson text Solomon asked two questions, we will divide our lesson into 2 sections of study by these two questions.

First question – "What advantage does a man have in all his work which he does under the sun? (1:3)

- **Answer** – (1:4-8) "All things are wearisome; Man is not able to tell it." (1:8)

Second question – "Is there anything of which one might say, 'See this, it is new'? Already it has existed for ages which were before us." (1:10)

- **Answer** – (1:9-11) – "So there is **nothing new under the sun.**" (1:9)

Under reversionism, Solomon concluded that there is **Nothing New** under the sun for believers.

5. But a GREATER than Solomon declared "all things new"!

"And behold, something greater than Solomon is here."

(Matt.12:42) "And He (Jesus Christ) who sits on the throne said, 'Behold, **I am making all things new.**' And he said, 'Write, for these words are faithful and true.'" (Rev.21:5)

New born baby (1 Pet.2:2)

New heart and spirit (Ezek.36:26-27)

New man (Eph.2:15; 4:24)

New commandment (John 13:34-35; 1 John 2:8)

New heaven and earth (Isa.65:17; 2 Pet.3:13)

New creature (2 Cor.5:17; Gal.6:15)

New living way (Heb.10:20)

New Covenant (Luke 22:20)

New name (Rev.2:17)

New Jerusalem (Rev.3:12; 21:1-2)

**A CHOICE – NOTHING NEW (apart from Christ),
or EVERYTHING NEW (with Christ).**