

***“Workaholics 101”***

**being a study of**

**Ecclesiastes 2:17-26**

# WORKAHOLICS



# Ecclesiastes on “Life” #1

## Ecclesiastes 2:17-26

Therefore **I hated life** because the work that was done under the sun was distressing to me, for **all is vanity and grasping for the wind.**

Then **I hated all my labor** in which I had toiled under the sun, **because I must leave it to the man who will come after me.** And who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will rule over all my labor in which I toiled and in which I have shown myself wise under the sun. This also is vanity.

**Therefore I turned my heart and despaired of all the labor in which I had toiled under the sun.**

## Ecclesiastes on “Life” #2

For there is a man whose labor is with wisdom, knowledge, and skill; yet he must leave his heritage to a man who has not labored for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. **For what has man for all his labor, and for the striving of his heart with which he has toiled under the sun? For all his days are sorrowful, and his work burdensome; even in the night his heart takes no rest. This also is vanity.**

# Ecclesiastes on “Life” #3

Nothing is better for a man than that he should eat and drink, and that his soul should enjoy good in his labor. **This also, I saw, was from the hand of God.** For who can eat, or who can have enjoyment, more than I? For God gives wisdom and knowledge and joy to a man who is good in His sight; **but to the sinner He gives the work of gathering and collecting, that he may give to him who is good before God.** This also is vanity and grasping for the wind. (NKJV)

# *A Study of the Book's Place*

1. It's part of the "hinge" of the Old Testament-  
Answers 5 questions:

**Job** – Why do good people suffer?

**Psalms** – Does God listen to us?

**Proverbs** – How do we understand  
human behavior?

**Ecclesiastes** – What is the purpose of life?

**Song of Solomon** – How beautiful is  
marriage/sex?

## *A Study of the Book, itself*

2. Answers the question: **What profit** has a man from all his labor in which he toils under the sun? (**Ecclesiastes 1:3**)

“Vanity” is used 35 times;

“Under the sun” is used 29 times;

Just as Adam could not find a companion among the animals (**Genesis 2:19-20**), neither could Solomon find satisfaction among worldly activities (**Ecclesiastes 1 & 2**)

# *How to Hate Life in Ecclesiastes:*

1. **Despair** – What difference do I make?

**1:9-11**

(“As the World Turns *without us*”)

2. **Delirium** – From dopiness to designer drugs!

**2:1-11**

(Is there nothing but *Fun*?)

3. **Depression** – No one outlives death, whether wise or fool! **2:12-16**

(Working ourselves *to death!*)

4. **Disillusionment** – Work, Work, Work for a gold watch? **2:17-26** (Probate *for a reprobate?*)



# Does the word “slavery” rattle your chains?



1. “The condition in which the life, liberty, and fortune of an individual is held within the absolute power of another.”

Oxford Dict. Of Politics

## 2. *You’ve never?*

Neither had the Jews! **John 8:32-35**

Economic slavery is: **Proverbs 22:7**

## 3. Be not **Leviticus 25:39-43**

Stay not **Romans 6:16-18**

Return not **2 Peter 2:18-22**



# How Does Money Control Us?

Does it **talk** to us?



Does it **think** for us?



Does it **outweigh** our loves?



Do we **worship** it?



# How Can We Love Life?

1. Take a day off

2. Have a pause that refreshes

**Ecclesiastes 2:24; 3:12-13; 3:22;  
5:18; 8:15; 9:7-10**

3. Use sharper tools **Ecclesiastes 10:10**

4. Have less distractions **Luke 8:14**

5. Change goals in midstream

**Luke 6:24**

## 1 Timothy 6:7-11:

“But **those who desire to be rich fall** into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. **For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil**, for which some have **strayed from the faith** in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with **many sorrows.**”

# For Whom Are You Working?

"He who **believes** and is baptized will be saved; but he who does **not believe** will be condemned." **Mark 16:16**