

## CHAPTER 1

**T**HE words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.

2 Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all *is* vanity.

3 What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun?

4. *One* generation passeth away, and *another* generation cometh: but the earth abideth for ever.

5 The sun also ariseth, and the sun goeth down, and hasteth to his place where he arose.

6 The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits.

7 All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea *is* not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again.

8 All things *are* full of labour; man cannot utter *it*: the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing.

9. The thing that hath been, it *is that* which shall be; and that which is done *is* that which shall be done: and *there is* no new *thing* under the sun.

10 Is there *any* thing whereof it may be said, See, this *is* new? it hath been already of old time, which was before us.

11 *There is* no remembrance of former *things*; neither shall there be *any* remembrance of *things* that are to come with *those* that shall come after.

12 ¶ I the Preacher was king over Israel in Jerusalem.

13 And I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all *things* that are done under heaven: this sore travail hath God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith.

14 I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all *is* vanity and vexation of spirit.

15 *That which is* crooked cannot be made straight: and that which is wanting cannot be numbered.

16 I communed with mine own heart, saying, Lo, I am come to great estate, and have gotten more wisdom than all *they* that have been before me in Jerusalem: yea, my heart had great experience of wisdom and knowledge.

17 And I gave my heart to know wisdom, and to know madness and folly: I perceived that this also is vexation of spirit.

18 For in much wisdom *is* much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow.

## CHAPTER 2

**I** SAID in mine heart, Go to now, I will prove thee with mirth, therefore enjoy pleasure: and, behold, this also *is* vanity.

2 I said of laughter, *It is* mad: and of mirth, What doeth it?

3 I sought in mine heart to give myself unto wine, yet acquainting mine heart with wisdom; and to lay hold on folly, till I might see what *was* that good for the sons of men, which they should do under the heaven all the days of their life.

4 I made me great works; I builded me houses; I planted me vineyards:

5 I made me gardens and orchards, and I planted trees in them of all *kind of* fruits:

6 I made me pools of water, to water therewith the wood that bringeth forth trees:

7 I got *me* servants and maidens, and had servants born in my house; also I had great possessions of great and small cattle above all that were in Jerusalem before me:

8 I gathered me also silver and gold, and the peculiar treasure of kings and of the provinces: I gat me men singers and women singers, and the delights of the sons of men, *as* musical instruments, and that of all sorts.

9 So I was great, and increased more than all that were before me in Jerusalem: also my wisdom remained with me.

10 And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour.

11 Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all *was* vanity and vexation of spirit, and *there was* no profit under the sun.

12 ¶ And I turned myself to behold wisdom, and madness, and folly: for what *can* the man *do* that

cometh after the king? *even* that which hath been already done.

13 Then I saw that wisdom excelleth folly, as far as light excelleth darkness.

14 The wise man's eyes *are* in his head; but the fool walketh in darkness: and I myself perceived also that one event happeneth to them all.

15 Then said I in my heart, As it happeneth to the fool, so it happeneth even to me; and why was I then more wise? Then I said in my heart, that this also *is* vanity.

16 For *there is* no remembrance of the wise more than of the fool for ever; seeing that which now *is* in the days to come shall all be forgotten. And how dieth the wise *man*? as the fool.

17. Therefore I hated life; because the work that is wrought under the sun *is* grievous unto me: for all *is* vanity and vexation of spirit.

18 ¶ Yea, I hated all my labour which I had taken under the sun: because I should leave it unto the man that shall be after me.

19 And who knoweth whether he shall be a wise *man* or a fool? yet shall he have rule over all my labour wherein I have laboured, and wherein I have shewed myself

wise under the sun. This *is* also vanity.

20 Therefore I went about to cause my heart to despair of all the labour which I took under the sun.

21 For there is a man whose labour *is* in wisdom, and in knowledge, and in equity; yet to a man that hath not laboured therein shall he leave it *for* his portion. This also *is* vanity and a great evil.

22 For what hath man of all his labour, and of the vexation of his heart, wherein he hath laboured under the sun?

23 For all his days *are* sorrows, and his travail grief; yea, his heart taketh not rest in the night. This is also vanity.

24 ¶ *There is* nothing better for a man, *than* that he should eat and drink, and *that* he should make his soul enjoy good in his labour. This also I saw, that it *was* from the hand of God.

25 For who can eat, or who else can hasten *hereunto*, more than I?

26 For *God* giveth to a man that *is* good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy: but to the sinner he giveth travail, to gather and to heap up, that he may give to *him* that *is* good before God. This also *is* vanity and vexation of spirit.

### CHAPTER 3

**T**O every *thing there is* a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

2 A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up *that which is* planted;

3 A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

4 A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

5 A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

6 A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

7 A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

8 A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

9 What profit hath he that worketh in that wherein he laboureth?

10 I have seen the travail, which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised in it.

11. He hath made every *thing* beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that

no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.

12 I know that *there is* no good in them, but for *a man* to rejoice, and to do good in his life.

13 And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, *it is* the gift of God.

14 I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth *it*, that *men* should fear before him.

15 That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past.

16 ¶ And moreover I saw under the sun the place of judgment, *that* wickedness *was* there; and the place of righteousness, *that* iniquity *was* there.

17 I said in mine heart, God shall judge the righteous and the wicked: for *there is* a time there for every purpose and for every work.

18 I said in mine heart concerning the estate of the sons of men, that God might manifest them, and that they might see that they themselves are beasts.

19 For that which befalleth the

sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all *is* vanity.

20 All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.

21 Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?

22 Wherefore I perceive that *there is* nothing better, than that a man should rejoice in his own works; for that *is* his portion: for who shall bring him to see what shall be after him?

#### CHAPTER 4

**S**O I returned, and considered all the oppressions that are done under the sun: and behold the tears of *such as were* oppressed, and they had no comforter; and on the side of their oppressors *there was* power; but they had no comforter.

2 Wherefore I praised the dead which are already dead more than the living which are yet alive.

3 Yea, better *is he* than both they, which hath not yet been, who hath not seen the evil work that is done under the sun.

4 ¶ Again, I considered all travail, and every right work, that for this a man is envied of his neighbour. This *is* also vanity and vexation of spirit.

5 The fool foldeth his hands together, and eateth his own flesh.

6 Better *is* an handful *with* quietness, than both the hands full *with* travail and vexation of spirit.

7 ¶ Then I returned, and I saw vanity under the sun.

8 There is one *alone*, and *there is* not a second; yea, he hath neither child nor brother: yet *is there* no end of all his labour; neither is his eye satisfied with riches; neither *saith he*, For whom do I labour, and bereave my soul of good? This *is* also vanity, yea, it *is* a sore travail.

9 ¶ Two *are* better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour.

10 For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him *that is* alone when he falleth; for *he hath* not another to help him up.

11 Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm *alone*?

12 And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

13 ¶ Better is a poor and a wise child than an old and foolish king, who will no more be admonished.

14 For out of prison he cometh to reign; whereas also *he that is* born in his kingdom becometh poor.

15 I considered all the living which walk under the sun, with the

second child that shall stand up in his stead.

16 *There is* no end of all the people, *even* of all that have been before them: they also that come after shall not rejoice in him. Surely this also *is* vanity and vexation of spirit.

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## DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

The word “Ecclesiastes” comes from the Greek word *ekklesia*, which, in the New Testament, is translated “church” or “assembly.” It carries the idea of a preacher, or debater, speaking to an assembly of people.

The author of this book was Solomon, who was known not only for his wisdom, but for his wealth and enjoyment of pleasure. No king in the Old Testament better fits the situation described in this book. Its theme, given in chapter 1:1-3, might be expressed, “Is life really worth living?” Solomon looks at life, with its seeming contradictions and mysteries, and he wonders if the endless toil of existence is worth it. A man toils all his life and dies, and someone less worthy than himself inherits all his wealth and wastes it. Solomon comes to the conclusion that the best thing is to enjoy the blessings of God today; fear God, and keep His Word. Of course, we know, with the added light of the New Testament, that our labor is not in vain in the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58).

The key words and phrases in the Book of Ecclesiastes are: man (used 47 times); labor (used 36 times); under the sun (used 30 times); vanity (used 37 times); wisdom, or wise (used 52 times); and evil (used 22 times). We must keep in mind that Solomon is reasoning about what he sees and knows “under the sun.” If we stop in the Book of Ecclesiastes, we will stay in the shadows. We must move on to the full revelation of the New Testament to have the whole counsel of God. Many of the false cults quote isolated verses from the Book of Ecclesiastes in an effort to prove their strange doctrines when, in fact, if they would accept the entire revelation of God’s Word, they would not live in error.

## PROVERB FOR TODAY

“To do justice and judgment is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice” (Proverbs 21:3).

## TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

**ASSIGNMENT 25:** For today’s memory verses, follow instructions on page 9.

## BIRTHDAY TODAY

**VANESSA DANIELS**

## ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

**1861**

**THE BATTLE OF BULL RUN.**

**1898**

**THE BIRTHDAY OF ERNEST HEMINGWAY.**

**1950**

**DR. BOB GRAY’S ANNIVERSARY OF HIS PASTORATE OF THE TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA.**

In these years Dr. Bob Gray was a young preacher. In the past four decades he has built one of the largest churches in the state of Florida, and one of the greatest soul-winning churches in the world. Pray for young preachers today and for pastors everywhere. I have several friends in the Los Angeles area who have been called to preach the Gospel full-time and who now are studying for the ministry and serving as associate pastors in churches. Perhaps you have preacher boys for whom you ought to pray today. You have no idea what a letter or gift might mean to them. Also pray for God to bless your pastor today. Pledge to God your loyalty to him.

## **ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY**

**1896**

**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF AFRO-AMERICAN WOMEN AND THE COLORED WOMEN'S LEAGUE MERGED** and created the National Association of Colored Women. Mary Church Terrell was elected president at meeting at Washington's Nineteenth Street Baptist Church.

**1950**

**BLACK TROOPS OF TWENTY-FOURTH INFANTRY REGIMENT RECAPTURED YECHON** after sixteen-hour battle, scoring first U.S. victory in Korean war.

**1962**

**MORE THAN 160 ACTIVISTS JAILED AFTER DEMONSTRATION IN ALBANY.** By August almost one thousand demonstrators had been arrested in the Georgia city.

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# A Christian Life . . .

## HENRY CLAY MORRISON (1857-1942)

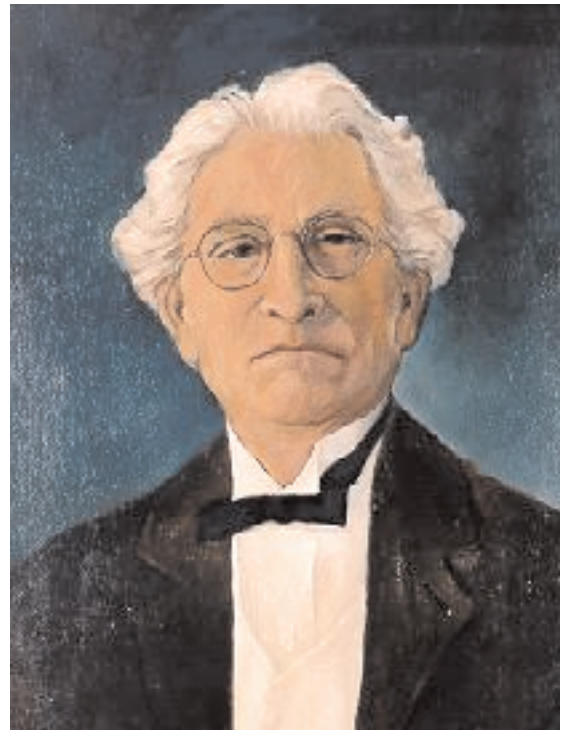
H.C. Morrison was born in Barren County, Kentucky. His parents died when he was very young, and he was reared in his grandfather's home. The rugged religious atmosphere and the constant spirit of revival throughout the bluegrass region made a profound impression upon him and awakened within his soul a consciousness of his need of Christ and the assurance of deliverance from sin.

About the age of 11, he was converted and soon after felt the call to the ministry. Although he made no attempt to preach for about eight years, he was much occupied with church work. At the age of 19 he was licensed to preach and demonstrated the validity of his call in his work as circuit rider and station pastor. As a young man, he was called to one of the most responsible Methodist churches in Kentucky.

In 1890 he left the pastorate and gave himself to the work of evangelism and the publication of a religious paper called *The Old Methodist*, which later became *The Herald*.

Morrison's evangelistic leadership in Methodism grew rapidly from Kentucky to most of the other states and many foreign lands. A contemporary said of him, "To him was given by God a heart to move the multitude, a mind to think God's thoughts, and a voice to rouse his century, his church, and his country." The camp meeting became one of his chief instruments, and perhaps no other man ever gave more time or effective leadership to this phase of evangelism than he.

In addition to this, he served as president of Asbury College from 1910 to 1925, and from 1933 to 1940. He was instrumental in founding Asbury Theological Seminary in 1923. William Jennings Bryan said, "I regard H.C. Morrison the greatest pulpit orator on the American continent." And, at Morrison's death in 1942, it was written of him, "A tall tree has fallen in the forest, but it went down with a great shout of victory." He died as he lived—in the midst of a campaign for souls.





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# Treasure Path to Soul-Winning

**MEMORY VERSE TOPIC FOR THIS WEEK:**

**DIFFICULT PROBLEMS SOLVED: "I HAVE NO FEELING"**

(Assignment 25)

Please recite all three components of each of these five verses aloud, five times each morning, and five times each evening, for the next seven days. The three components of each verse are: Subject, Scripture Reference, and Scripture Text. (For more details, see "The Treasure Path to Soul Winning," page xiii near the front of this book.)

**Justified by faith.**

( ) Romans 5:1

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Justified by His Grace.**

( ) Romans 3:24

Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

**Justified by His Blood.**

( ) Romans 5:9

Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

**Justified by Believing (Never by feeling).**

( ) John 5:24

Verily, Verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

**Justified in the name of the Lord Jesus.**

( ) 1 Corinthians 6:11

And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.