

Prayer Meeting, Dec. 30, 1970 -

NEW YEAR

Ecc. 1:9

V. 1 - Son of David - Solomon

V. 2 - All vanity - things of this world.

v. 3 - Insufficient to make him happy

✓ Business of the world described - labour, toil

Under the sun (28 times) - a world above the sun, that needs not the sun. Glory of Christ is the Light.

Speaks of work under the sun as pain and the gains are little. By its Light and in its heat in the day time - In the sweat of our face we eat bread.

✓ Benefit of that business inquired into

(What profit?)

In all labour there is profit - here he denies that there is any profit.

By profit - we get that which we call profit by labour of our hands - substance - yet it is that which is not.

Not a remaining benefit.

In short - the wealth, pleasure of this world - we can have ever so much of them, they are not sufficient to make us happy.

← A - As to the (body) and life that now is?

Life not consist of the abundance

As goods increase, so cares about them increase.

One little thing - embitter it all.

B - As to the (soul) and life to come

Not supply want of soul - satisfy desires - atone sin

v. 4 - Time of enjoyment of these things (short)

We continue in world (one) generation!

Passing away, making room for another

The worldly possessions we received from others must very shortly leave to others and therefore to us they are vanity.

We should consult the welfare of succeeding generations.

We (leave the world) - the earth is left behind and abides forever where it is - therefore, the earth can not help our future state.

v. 5 - Man abides upon the earth but a little while - the sun sets indeed every night, yet it rises again in the morning - as bright and fresh.

v. 6 - The winds shift their point yet they are in some point all the time.

Shifting - still going - never resting.

v. 7 - Waters in continual circulation - stagnate otherwise.

v. 8 - Things of world full of labour - sea - rolling.

They are still where they were - sun same place - wind turns until it comes to same place - water returns to its place.

Man as restless as sun, wind, rivers, never satisfied, contented -
The more he has of the world the more he wants.

All things continue as they were from creation. 2 Pet. 3:4 - earth is where it was, the sun, winds, rivers keep same course.

World at best a weary land.

✓ Our senses unsatisfied.

Eye - same sights, covets novelty, variety.

Ear - pleasant song or tune, must have another.

v. 9 - two things we take satisfaction in

1. Our business

2. Enjoyment of the world.

✓ First - the novelty of the (invention!)

Such as never known before.

Think that none ever made such advances in knowledge and such discoveries by it, or such improvements of a trade or art as we have.

We boast of new fashions, new methods, new expressions and push the old out and put the old down.

But this is all a (mistake.)

The thing that is and shall be, is the same with that which has been, and that which shall be done will be but the same with that which is done, for there is no new thing under the sun.

This is repeated in V. 10.

Is there any thing with which it may be said with wonder see - this is new? There never was anything like this?

✓ This is an appeal.

To modern man who cries that modern learning is above that of the ancients.

Let them name anything which they take to be new - perhaps we

cannot produce records, yet we have reason to conclude that it has been already of old time, which was before us.

What is there in the kingdom of nature of which we may say - this is new?

Things that appear new to us, as they do to children are not so in themselves.

The heavens were of old -

The earth abides forever -

The powers of nature still the same.

Kingdom of Providence

In general it is the same over and over again.

Men's hearts and the corruption of them are still the same.

Men's desires, pursuits, complaints are still the same.

God still deals with men according to the scripture - so that is repetition.

What is surprising to us need not be. Strange advancements, disappointments, revolutions - mankind treads a perpetual round as the sun, wind, rivers.

v. 11 - Design of this

1. (show folly of men) in coveting the new. Imagining they have discovered things that are new.

Pleased with - priding themselves.

We are sick of old things - grow weary of what we have been long used to.

As Israel of the manna.

As Athenians to covet a new god.

Some new thing admire this and the others as new whereas it is all what has been.

The arts - valued upon owing the original.

✓ 2. To help us not to expect happiness in the creature.

Why look there - no one has found it there yet.

What reason have we to think that we world would be kinder to us than it has been to those before us.

Since there is nothing in it that is new - forefathers made as much of it as they could. They ate the manna and yet they died. John 8:8-9.

✓ 3. To quicken us to secure eternal spiritual blessings.

If we would entertain ourselves with new things, we must acquaint ourselves with the things of God.

Get a new nature - then old things pass away and all things become new.

In heaven all things will be new. Rev. 21:5

From this world we can expect nothing new, nothing from it more than we have received or had.

Memory short of honors won - mighty figure - action - few are listed in history - these soon lost.