

“An Introduction to Ecclesiastes”
Ecclesiastes 12:9-14

*“But I did not believe the reports until I came and my own eyes had seen it. And behold, the half was not told me. **Your wisdom** and prosperity surpass the report that I heard. Happy are your men! Happy are your servants, who continually **stand before you and hear your wisdom!**” (1 Kings 10:7-8; cf. 1 Kings 3:12)*

- The Author of the Book of Ecclesiastes:
 - The author is Qoheloth (Ko hel eth) also known as King Solomon. Ecclesiastes is the Greek word for the Hebrew word Qoheloth or Pastor/Gatherer. (Ecclesiastes 1:1,12; 12:9-10)
 - Ecclesiastes was written by Solomon near the end of his life and may be a part of what is described in 1 Kings 11:41, “Now the rest of the acts of Solomon, and all that he did, and his wisdom, are they not written in the Book of the Acts of Solomon?”
- The Tethers of the Book of Ecclesiastes:
 - This world was **created** by God and is **ruled** by God:
 - “As you do not know the way the spirit comes to the bones in the womb of a woman with child, so you do not know the work of God who makes everything.” (Ecclesiastes 11:5); “Consider the work of God: who can make straight what He has made crooked? In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider: God has made the one as well as the other, so that man may not find out anything that will be after him.” (Ecclesiastes 7:13-14)
 - **Man is responsible for his actions** and will stand before God in judgment someday:
 - “Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring **every deed into judgment**, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.” (Ecclesiastes 12:13b-14; cf. 11:9)
 - God has **a purpose and a meaning for everything**, BUT we will not be able to figure it all out:
 - “Then I saw all the work of God, that man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun. However much man may toil in seeking, he will not find it out. Even though a wise man claims to know, he cannot find it out.” (Ecclesiastes 8:17; cf. 7:23-24; 3:11)
- We live in a world “subjected to futility” (Romans 8:20-21):
 - Wisdom and Preparation cannot save us from death (Ecclesiastes 2:14-15; 9:12).
 - The things and pleasures of this world cannot satisfy our deepest desires (Ecclesiastes 2:3-8).
 - Sin destroys and seemingly has the last word in this world and we are all victims of it (Ecclesiastes 3:16; 4:1; 5:8; 7:20; 9:3)

Worship: I Stand Amazed — Norton Hall Band

Speak, O Lord — The Gettys

Service Times: Sundays: Sunday School 9am/Prayer 9:45am/Church 10:30am; Mondays: Legacy Practicum **ON SUMMER BREAK**
Tuesdays: Bible Study — Women 6:30pm/Men 7pm; Thursdays: Prayer 6:20pm/Church 7pm

Announcements:

★**DONATIONS:** Please see the August Newsletter for information about our Donation Collection for this month. ***THIS Sunday is the LAST day for this collection!***

★**END OF SUMMER PARTY:** We are having our annual “End of Summer Party” THIS Sunday, August 30th, at Andy’s house (1062 National Drive SE; Hebron), starting at 5pm. There will be swimming — weather permitting, but we also ask that you bring yard games and/or board games to play as well. We would love for EVERYONE to join us for this wonderful time of fun, food, and fellowship! There is a sign-up list on the wall in the Entryway, please sign up to bring something for this party!

★**LEGACY PRACTICUM:** On Monday, September 14, 2026 from 6:00-9:00pm, for 10 Weeks, we will study the doctrine of the church “Ecclesiology” and will be taught by Pastor Jeremey Scarberry and Richard Riley, Elder Emeritus. This course is 30 Lecture Hours with a Syllabus provided for each student. You may take the course for credit or for an audit. If interested, let Richard know so we may prepare a Syllabus for you. We will study the following from I and II Timothy and Titus:

- The identity of the Church: The Church is not merely a building but the assembly of believers called by God, united in Christ and indwelt by the Holy Spirit
- The purpose of the Church: Key functions include teaching biblical doctrine, providing fellowship, observing the Lord’s Supper, praying, and spreading the Gospel.

Ecclesiology studies the theological meaning and practice of baptism, communion, and church discipline and the Biblical requirements for an Elder and Deacon.

Ephesians 4:11-13: ¹¹And He Himself gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, ¹²for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ, ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

★*For all other announcements, please see the August Newsletter!*