

“Ecclesiastes: Vanity of Vanities! All is Vanity!”
Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

*“And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.”
(1 John 2:17; cf. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14); “Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to Me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.” (Isaiah 55:2); “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?”
(Matthew 16:26a)*

- Ecclesiastes 1:2: (Jeremiah 2:12-13)
 - **Vanity of vanities, all is vanity:** Utter emptiness, completely useless, futile, pointless, having no gain or true purpose.
 - **Holy, Holy, Holy:** In God is found true life full of meaning, true delight and satisfaction with no end, true wisdom with no limit, and true goodness with no sin.
- Ecclesiastes 1:3:
 - **What does man gain?:** We will spend our lives working, and labouring, sweating and sacrificing. What will we ultimately have to show for it? (cf. Genesis 3:17-19; Matthew 11:28)
 - **Under the Sun:** This phrase is used 30 times in 12 chapters. “Under the sun” discounts the heavens, the place of God’s throne. It is viewing all of life through the blurry lens of natural revelation.
 - *“He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, He will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.” (Romans 2:6-8)*
- Ecclesiastes 1:4-7,9-11
 - **What we observe** in creation will point to God’s faithfulness, mercy, love, and glory (Lamentation 3:22-24; Psalm 19:1-6) or it will point to the futility and ultimate meaninglessness of all creation.
 - **Solomon wants us to taste two important realities:** There is a great weariness in working hard and getting nowhere, and to create a hunger for something far better than anything this world can offer.
 - *“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.” (Matthew 5:6); “Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst.’” (John 6:35)*
- Ecclesiastes 1:8:
 - **Being satisfied and filled:** Naturally, we look for satisfaction and fulfilment in this world/in sin. In Christ, we have new desires, longings, and yearnings for eternal treasure, happiness, and satisfaction.

Announcements:

★**DONATIONS:** Throughout the month of September, we, as a church body, are collecting monetary donations for our Senior Pastor in recognition of Pastor Appreciation Month. Monetary donations are encouraged to be given directly to Pastor Jeremy in the form of cash, or his personal Venmo account, or make checks payable directly to Pastor Jeremy. Additionally, we invite you all to submit notes or cards expressing appreciation. You can give these notes or cards to Elder Mike, who will present them to Pastor Jeremy at the beginning of October.

Individuals who wish to provide additional gifts to the Senior Pastor or other church staff may do so directly, outside of the organized church collection.

If you have any questions about this collection, please see one of the Elders.

★**COMMUNION:** We will be partaking of and celebrating Communion together as a church body THIS Sunday, September 6th.

★**FELLOWSHIP LUNCH:** We are having a Fellowship Lunch THIS Sunday, September 6th, immediately following the worship service. There is a sign-up list on the table in the Entryway, please sign up to bring something for the meal.

EVERYONE is invited to stay to enjoy the food and fellowship with us!

★**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 Jeremy 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 September Newsletter!*