

Pastor PJ Berner • Compass Bible Church • January 5th 2021 • Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

**Framing Our Perspective**

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**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Read [Ecclesiastes 1:1](https://ref.ly/logosref/bible$2Besv.21.1.1). Though the author is never specifically identified in the book, many have attributed its authorship to Solomon. What descriptors in this opening verse might support this position?
2. Read [Ecclesiastes 1:2](https://ref.ly/logosref/bible$2Besv.21.1.2). What concepts or thoughts come to mind with the word, “vanity”?
   * If you have Logos Bible Software, the Faithlife Study Bible has a helpful note on this word in the comments on this verse. If not, you can consult [this article](https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/vanity-vanities/) from Ligonier ministries for additional information. <https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/vanity-vanities/>
3. Read [Ecclesiastes 1:3](https://ref.ly/logosref/bible$2Besv.21.1.3). Solomon here begins to prove his thesis from verse 2. Put into your own words this statement from verse 3 that summarizes much of what follows in this week’s passage.

1. Read [Ecclesiastes 1:4-7](https://ref.ly/logosref/bible$2Besv.21.1.4-21.1.7). How do the four illustrations from these verses further Solomon’s thesis that everything is vanity?
2. Read [Ecclesiastes 1:8](https://ref.ly/logosref/bible$2Besv.21.1.8). What does it mean that the eye is never satisfied with seeing nor the ear with hearing (cf. [2 Peter 2:14](https://ref.ly/logosref/bible$2Besv.82.2.14))? Describe some ways you have found this to be true in your own life.

1. Read [Ecclesiastes 1:9-10](https://ref.ly/logosref/bible$2Besv.21.1.9-21.1.10). How do you reconcile this notion with the reality that we see technological, scientific, and medical advances regularly that are indeed new? Consider the context of verses 1-11 in your answer.
2. Read [Ecclesiastes 1:11](https://ref.ly/logosref/bible$2Besv.21.1.11). What does this verse say to the one who is consumed with leaving a lasting legacy? Does this mean that it is pointless for a person to desire this? Why or why not?
3. Coming into this series, how have you approached this book? What connotations has this book been associated with in your mind?

1. As you read these opening verses, what is the perspective the author is wanting you to embrace? Christian/Non-Christian? God-fearer/Atheist? Hopeful/Despairing? What leads you to your conclusion?

1. In these opening verses he has established that the world is cyclical, and nothing can stop that. How can this be a liberating thought for a Christian? What does this opening passage do to your perspective on this world?
2. So much of this book is answering the question “How should we then live?”. How would you begin to answer that question based on these opening 11 verses?