



The Problem Of and Proof For Vanity

Ecclesiastes 1

An Introduction to the Book

A. The Aim of the Book

Outline

- Part 1 – The Problem that ‘All is Vanity’ (1:1-11)
- Part 2 – The Proof that ‘All is Vanity’ (1:12- 6)
- Part 3 – The Prescription for Living with Vanity (7-12)

Theme: The **Vanity** of Life in a Fallen World.

An Introduction to the Book

A. The Aim of the Book

B. The Audience of the Book

– Vanity in the life of the People of God

- The Title (1:1)

- The number of times the word 'God' is used

- God's Providential Hand (2:14, 24; 3:11, 14,17; 5:19; 7:13; 12:13)

- It is given by the Shepherd (12:9-11)

An Introduction to the Book

- A. The Aim of the Book
- B. The Audience of the Book
- C. The Author of the Book (1:1)
- D. The Arrangement of the Book

I. The Problem Of Vanity (2-11)

A. The Problem Stated (2)

“All is Vanity”

Ecclesiastes 1:2

“Vanity of vanities,” says the Preacher, “Vanity of vanities! All is vanity.”

I. The Problem Of Vanity (2-11)

A. The Problem Stated (2)

B. The Problem Illustrated in the Cycles of Life (3-11)

1. Nothing Seems to Change (3-7)
2. Nothing Seems to Satisfy (8)
3. Nothing Seems to be 'New Under the Sun' (9-11)

II. The Proof For Vanity (12-18)

“The vanity of Work and Wisdom”

A. The Preacher's Description of His Search (12-15)

B. The Preacher's Application of His Wisdom (16-17a)

C. The Preacher's Conclusion of His Search (17b-18)

III. The Lessons

- A. Our Work Matters (1 Cor. 15:58; Matt. 16:27)
- B. Our Person Matters (Rom. 8:18-21; 2 Cor. 5:17)
- C. Our Life Matters (Phil. 1:6; Rom. 8:32)