

When we doubt God's good plan

Ecclesiastes 3:16-4:16

- I. The problem of injustice (Ecclesiastes 3:16-17)
 - Sometimes justice is corrupted in courts, but God will hold them accountable.
- II. The problem of death (Ecclesiastes 3:18-21)
 - Both man and beast die (18-20), but man goes up to face God, while beasts just die (21; 12:7).
 - Death is certain, so we must enjoy what God gives us to do now (22; 2:24-26; 3:12,13).
- III. The problem of oppression (Ecclesiastes 4:1-3)
 - Oppression can make death seem better than life.
- IV. The problems with our work (Ecclesiastes 4:4-6)
 - Ambition is tainted by envy (4). Laziness leads to ruin (5). Contentment brings peace (6; Proverbs 15:16-17).
- V. The problem of isolation (Ecclesiastes 4:7-12).
 - Isolation brings misery (7-8).
 - We must seek community and friendships (9-12).
- VI. The problem of fleeting popularity (Ecclesiastes 4:13-16).
 - If political rulers lose their popularity, so will we.

Conclusion: Humanity is desperate for God's plan because everything man-centered is touched by sin and empty.