

**Ecclesiastes Chapter 6 Word Search**

N	W	E	A	L	T	H	P	S	R	Q	M	V	F	E	CHILDREN FUTILITY MOUTH RICHES WISDOM
O	E	W	R	G	X	O	H	S	H	O	B	D	U	E	
W	A	R	T	T	R	L	T	E	C	U	B	A	T	R	
M	I	Q	D	T	Q	R	U	N	F	P	T	A	I	U	
T	K	S	R	L	B	R	O	K	W	G	G	D	L	S	BURIAL EVIL LABOR POWER WEALTH
L	T	A	D	R	I	S	M	R	L	S	R	M	I	H	
B	I	V	E	O	E	H	B	A	S	M	Y	U	T	A	
T	D	W	H	H	M	U	C	D	Q	V	B	X	Y	D	
Z	O	E	C	E	R	L	Z	S	K	N	T	S	M	O	APPETITE DARKNESS HONOR PORTRAIT SHADOW
P	F	I	B	I	W	Y	G	T	N	H	M	M	F	W	
N	R	H	A	D	K	R	Q	U	P	A	F	M	L	B	
U	A	L	I	B	V	A	H	T	L	G	S	I	L	G	
W	O	W	C	J	G	L	M	V	B	R	D	A	H	V	
H	A	G	J	O	T	P	R	Z	R	O	N	O	H	X	
C	E	T	I	T	E	P	P	A	E	V	I	L	T	L	

Memory Verse

For who knows what is good for man in life,  
all the days of his vain life which he passes like a shadow?  
Who can tell a man what will happen after him  
under the sun?  
— Ecclesiastes 6:12

I have completed my Bible studies for the following days:

- Lord's Day & Monday
- Tuesday
- Wednesday
- Thursday
- Friday & Saturday

Signature

Daily Bible Studies  
June 16 - June 22,  
2013

“A Self Portrait  
of Futility”  
Ecclesiastes 6:1 - 12



## The Lord's Day & Monday

This week's text is **Ecclesiastes 6:1-12**.

Pastor Tim has called this week's study, "A Self-Portrait of Futility." Do you know what a portrait is? It is a painting of yourself that an artist makes for you. A self-portrait is a painting of yourself that you make.

The idea that Pastor Tim is trying to get across is this. Imagine Solomon looking out over his kingdom. He sees men working to build up their bank accounts. Other men are working to become important and well-known. He sees men studying, learning, and becoming wise in their own eyes. He sees men build large, influential families.

Solomon sees all this from high up in his palace standing on the balcony. From that vantage point, the men seem so small, so insignificant. It is clear to him that all of these things are utterly useless and foolish and he feels a great sadness in his heart, maybe even pity for the people he sees.

He turns around and walks back into his palace. He sits down at his desk and starts to write about the vanity of what he has just seen and pondered. He is going to paint a picture of the people he saw, not with paint, but with words. A little while later, he puts his pen down. He has finished the portrait.

He walks over to his mirror and looks into it. In that moment of fatigue and quietness, as he looks at his tired and wrinkled face, the Holy Spirit shows Solomon that he is the man that he has just written about. Without knowing it, Solomon has made a portrait, or picture, of himself.

He has experienced ultimate futility. He is the richest man in the world, the wisest man in the world, he has had many wives and many children. All of this and still Solomon lived much of his life in futility because he forgot the Lord his God. This should serve as a great warning to us, but we should also take great hope because at the bottom of it all we don't find Solomon holding the brush. It was the Lord Jesus the whole time, revealing truth to and through Solomon.

## Friday & Saturday Quiz

Review the week's lessons. Write down some things you learned, then go tell your parents and/or one of the elders.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Prayer

Pray about today's lesson. Ask your mom and dad if they will pray with you. Here is an idea of what you could pray:

"Lord Jesus, you are so gracious. If you gave me what I deserved, my work would accomplish nothing. Instead you bless my efforts. Thank you for the food you put on my table and the clothes you put on my back. Help me praise you for these things and use them to serve you joyfully."

Pray for the Lord's Day service:

1. Pray that everyone would think it is important to come and be able to come.
2. Pray for Sunday School and Pastor Tim's sermon.
3. Pray that we would encourage each other to love the Lord Jesus.

## Friday & Saturday

Today you should read **Ecclesiastes 6:10-12**.

Finally this week, Solomon shows us the complete futility and vanity of fighting against God's plans.

He says that whatever you are, you have been named already. In other words, God has pre-planned your life and ordered your steps. He gave you your parents, your hair color, your eye color, your intelligence level, etc. Trying to change your life, because you don't like the one God has given you is completely useless.

Solomon reminds us that you cannot "beat" God. You are a lump of clay. You don't have the power to ask God, "Why did you make me this way," and then clench your fists real tight and squint your eyes until you become what you want to be. God is God and you are not. If you try to become like Him by attempting to take total control of your life, you will be a miserable failure. You will understand what Solomon meant when he said, "...there are many things that increase vanity, how is man better?" In other words, you will find everyone of your efforts to fight against God's purpose in your life completely useless. You might want to be an NFL football player, but if the Lord made you a four foot midget, you can try as hard as you want but you will never make it.

Men like to exercise power. They think that they have the power to command things, but ultimately it is God who gives the final orders that cannot be countermanded by anyone, not even rebellious, mutinous soldiers. We know this is true, when we consider who the only one is who knows what the future will bring. It is not weak and pathetic men, but the strong and glorious Lord Jesus who commands all things by the power of his word.

## The Lord's Day & Monday Quiz

1. What is a self-portrait? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What does the word futility mean? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Solomon might not have realized it, but much of chapter six is descriptive of who?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Read 1st Peter 1:21 and then look at the second last paragraph of today's lesson. What connection is there between the two?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Prayer

Pray about today's lesson. Ask your mom and dad if they will pray with you. Here is an idea of what you could pray:

"Lord Jesus, thank you for your Word. Grant me the faith to believe what I have learned over and over again in Ecclesiastes; that life is meaningless and futile without you. This week please make me more like the boy or girl I was created to be."

Pray for your family:

1. Dad and Mom
2. Brothers and Sisters
3. Grandpas, Grandmas, Uncles, Aunts, and Cousins

## Tuesday

Today's reading is **Ecclesiastes 6:1-2**.

Today, Solomon looks under the sun again. What does he see? He sees something that is common among men. In other words, there are no exceptions to what he will describe. People may reply to Solomon, "Oh, that will never happen to me! I am different than everyone else," but Solomon makes it clear that the same thing that happens to other men, will happen to you. He might also mean that what he sees is *all too* common. It happens way more than you might think. Many, many people fall into this trap, so humble yourself before God and heed his warnings.

What is this common thing that he sees? It is an evil thing. A burdensome, heavy, tiring thing. He sees people that have obtained everything they want and yet they are not happy. They have no enjoyment. In our day, Solomon would point out the man with a mansion, nice cars, lots of money, a very important position at work, a beautiful wife, etc. Everybody wants to be him, but not many people realize that the guy that everyone wants to be has some serious problems in his heart.

For reasons that only God fully knows, God does not let the man enjoy all of the things he has. His big house is full of echoes and loneliness, driving his Ferrari is getting boring, and his wife just looks ordinary to him now. The man tries to be excited, happy, and content. He tries to kick back and enjoy, but he can't. God has made it this way.

For God's people, this is probably a blessing. It reminds them to be satisfied in Jesus. For God's enemies, it is a curse. They are controlled by their lusts. They are driven to get more and yet they can never seem to find happiness. Maybe God has completely different reasons than the ones I have listed, but the lesson for us is clear: Don't expect to find satisfaction in earthly things. Satisfaction can only be found in God. You were made to worship Him, not accumulate things.

## Thursday Quiz

### True or False

- |                                                                                                          |   |   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|
| 1. You can find satisfaction without God.                                                                | T | F |
| 2. No matter how hard you try you will not find satisfaction without God.                                | T | F |
| 3. The pursuit of money is vain, but the pursuit of knowledge is worthwhile.                             | T | F |
| 4. It is better to be satisfied with what you have rather than looking around for things you don't have. | T | F |
| 5. Your effort should be spent building God's kingdom, not your own.                                     | T | F |

## Prayer

Pray about today's lesson. Ask your mom and dad if they will pray with you. Here is an idea of what you could pray:

"Once again, Lord you have warned me of the dangers that come along with wealth. I know my heart is deceitful, God. Please keep me from giving all my love and affection to things instead of to you."

Pray for the leaders of our government. As always, pray that they would fear and honor the Lord Jesus with the decisions they make.

1. Carmen Vecchiarella, City Mayor of Salamanca
2. Barry E. Snyder, Sr., President of the Seneca Nation of Indians
3. Joseph Biden, Vice President of the United States of America

## Thursday

Today you should read **Ecclesiastes 6:7 - 9**.

Today, we see just how shockingly futile life with the Lord is. Solomon tells us that man does all of his work for one reason which is to bring satisfaction for himself. Yet, even though 100% of man's effort is designed to bring satisfaction, he finds that without the Lord's gracious movement in his heart he is satisfied 0% of the time.

You could compare it to being very, very hungry. You eat hamburger, after hamburger, after hamburger, but you are still hungry. You are finishing burger number 3,475 and you are still hungry. You buy your own McDonald's and eat burgers all day, everyday but you never stop being hungry. This is what Solomon is saying.

Solomon points out that this truth can be applied in some very specific situations. He shows us that even in the pursuit of knowledge there is vanity and futility. You can spend all of your effort trying to gain knowledge, but at the end of the day you are not much better off than the man who only has a little bit of knowledge.

Next, he tells us what is good. He tells us that it is better to be satisfied with what you have, with what you see, in your possession than it is to look around for things that you don't have.

Pastor Tim gives us a good reminder about this. Don't construct elaborate fantasies and dreams in your mind about how you will gain more and more for yourself. Instead dream about gaining more and more ground for the kingdom of God and about bringing glory to the Lord Jesus instead of yourself.

## Tuesday Quiz

1. How does Solomon describe the sad case of people who are never satisfied?

C \_\_\_\_\_

E \_\_\_\_\_

V \_\_\_\_\_

2. Who prevents a person from enjoying the wealth and honor and riches that he has?

3. We don't know for sure, but what are some reasons why God might refuse to let us enjoy and be satisfied with our things?

## Prayer

Pray about today's lesson. Ask your mom and dad if they will pray with you. Here is an idea of what you could pray: "Dear God forgive me for being unsatisfied with the things that you give. I am sorry that I am discontent and always want more. Please give me the power to change."

Pray for your church family:

1. Mr. and Mrs. Ames
2. Mr. Tim Austin
3. Mrs. Elaine Bartlett

## Wednesday

Please read **Ecclesiastes 6:3-6**.

In Solomon's time, having many children was considered a great blessing from God and so was having a long life. (**Exodus 20:12**) But today, Solomon tells us that a man who lives for two thousand years and has one hundred children, may still lack the blessing of God. If a man has these things, but is not satisfied by them, then God's Word tells us that it would have been better for him to be a stillborn child. It also tells us that it would be better for him to have no burial.

What does all that mean?

First, a stillborn child is a child that dies inside of its mother before it is actually born. A child born this way never sees the sunlight. It has not done good or evil, it has not experienced pain or pleasure. Solomon tells us that the man who is not satisfied with goodness, would be better off being like the stillborn. He would be better off having never lived at all.

Second, Solomon says that a man who has no burial is better off than a man who is not satisfied with goodness. A man who has no burial is a man that no one loved. No one cared enough to give him a proper funeral. In fact, they were probably waiting for and happy about his death so they could have his money and things. What a sad thing. We would feel bad for a person whose family does not love him and refuses to bury him, but Solomon says the unsatisfied man is in a worse state.

Finally, today notice that Solomon reminds us, yet again, of our inevitable deaths. He mentions that the man who lives two thousand years and the stillborn both die.

## Wednesday Quiz

1. Solomon tells us that two types of people are better off than the man who is not satisfied by the things God gives him.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Solomon also reminds us that the stillborn baby, the man who is never buried, and yourself all go to one place. What place is that?

3. Look up Proverbs 22:4 and fill in the blanks.

By \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord are riches and honor and life.

## Prayer

Pray about today's lesson. Ask your mom and dad if they will pray with you. Here is an idea of what you could pray: "Gracious Father, help me not to waste my life. Help me to live it for your glory instead of living for myself."

Pray for missionaries who tell others about Jesus:

This week's missionaries are the Fehr's. They work with Word of Life ministries which works with kids and teenagers. Mr. and Mrs. Fehr have been dealing with health issues over the past year, so please pray for them in that regard.