Ecclesiastes 2:24-25 There is nothing better for a man than to eat and drink and to find joy in his work. This too, I saw, is from God’s hand. For who can eat or enjoy himself apart from him?

Did you catch that line in our text? I am going to guess that just about every kid expressed it or thought it at some time or other. Actually I am going to guess that just about every adult at some time or other uttered or muttered those words or similar. Yeah, that little line that said, **“It’s so unfair!”** Well, welcome to life!

I can tell you point blank that life is so unfair. Life is that way because of a thing called sin. Now let’s just suppose that you don’t accept the idea of sin. Let’s just suppose that you buy the lie of evolution and you think man is just a higher form of animal. You think man will further evolve and therefore man will be able to overcome. Really? Let’s just look at the truth.

The grass grows. Some grass grows abundantly and some grass barely gets enough water. That is so unfair. Then the grass gets eaten. Sorry, in a world that wants all things to be equal and right I want to ask what right does that cow or horse have to eat and kill the grass? Then you are going to say, “Hey, that’s the circle of life, it’s the way life is!” Okay, but now what happens when the lion eats the cow? Understand that the lion is going to take out the weak or sometimes, as I saw in a video of lion attacks the other day, that lion is going to kill and eat the cow they can isolate and bring down. That’s so unfair! That poor cow doesn’t deserve to be killed and eaten. But remember, you said it was the circle of life. Which means that one animal in the name of life can kill another for its personal reasons. By the way, the weak lion gets killed by hyenas, weak hyenas get killed by other hyenas or lions or snakes or whoever happens to run across it and determines to kill it. Evolution called that “survival of the fittest,”

What I am trying to get across to you is that if you believe in evolution, then you must recognize that life is unfair. It is brutal and vicious. And despite millions of years (according to evolution) not once has this brutality, this viciousness of life, this unfairness of life been overcome or stopped.

Now pay attention. The only creature who has made improvements and bettered themselves in life is humans. We developed weapons to protect ourselves and even the playing field. We developed cooperation among ourselves, developed farms, grow food, cities, housing, walls for safety, and where we could we, yes, humans, we made life better, easier, more productive and worked at making it fairer!

Seriously, in nature can you cite any animal that ever made an improvement to how they live or what they do? Any monkey cities out there? Any signs that cows, on their own, built barns for protection from the elements and planted fields so they could eat better? Or the water buffalo that developed weapons to fight against the hungry lion or hyena or whatever? Any evidence of an animal building a walled city or raising armies to stop those evil lions? Hey, how about lions or hyenas (any animal of prey) that have determined to band together and become vegans because finally they realize that eating another animal is just not right? In evolution such things have never happened. So if you believe that evolution is true and the right explanation for things, then stop crying and whining about life being unfair because if there is one thing evolution does do is it teaches relentlessly and boldly that “It is so unfair!” If you want to declare yourself just an animal, then recognize life is never going to get better, ever!

But enter man, the crowning creation of God. God made man different. We can reason, have logic and compassion. We can and do strive to make life better. The problem is sin. Sin has greatly impacted this world and man. Sin has made this world the vicious and hard place it is. Sin has brought disease and destruction. Its impact is found in nature, weather, biology and man. Our world is locked into a “bondage to decay.” That means it is breaking down. God’s Word tells us we are inclined to evil as humans.” In a nutshell what that means is that we will disobey rules, have no regard for each other and the lives around us. We will pretty well be selfish, self-centered, and out for our own good.

Don’t believe me, then just look at the world! Look at the reality and nature of gangs! By the way, a group of people who get together to do good, those are churches, but those groups that get together for their own good and for their evil desires, that’s a gang! The Crips, the Bloods, and Hell’s Angels are not gathered together for humanitarian purposes. They are out for their own good. Gangs in today’s world are on the rise! Or think about computer viruses. Someone is out there creating these things to destroy other computers for no other reason than…they can! A reminder of the evil out there.

Yet, again note this, the majority of humans don’t belong to gangs and are not involved in hacking things. Know why? Because of the base knowledge that God instilled in man, something that is not found in animals. Oh, that knowledge is damaged because of sin, but nevertheless it is there and functioning. The idea of laws and the importance of following laws for the greater good, that’s from God. The idea of taking care of the weak and helpless, that’s from God. The idea of standing opposed to that which is evil and destructive, maybe even fighting a war to do that, such a reality is from God. Just the idea that working hard and being productive is for the greater good, that idea is from God.

So imagine the impact on the world when these basic ideas and truths of God are undermined and cast aside. Imagine the impact of the idea that some laws can be disobeyed, in other words, the idea that you can break laws if you think it serves you best. (Please, I am not talking about bad laws. Bad laws have always existed and always will. Where those bad laws were found, an upright society will work at changing them. I am talking about simple basic laws that help protect everyone. I think those laws are plain and evident if we would just sit down and think things through.) Fact is, when you promote the breaking of laws just because it serves you, you are doing nothing more than proving God’s Word right. You are showing how unfair life really is and then making it even more unfair.

I know, this is a long introduction, but a necessary one. Necessary, because if we just operate humanistically and throw out God, the end result is exactly what our text is talking about. Our theme: **GOD BE WITH US!**

You did catch the basic theme of numerous chapters of Ecclesiastes? **“Nothing but vapor, totally vapor. Everything is just vapor that vanishes.”** Do you realize those words express the reality of this world of ours? It is true, everything is here today and gone tomorrow. Do you think all the fame of John Wayne amounts to anything today? How about the fame of Michael Jackson. We could go on and on with famous people who did this or that, accomplished this or that and yet today they are gone, some footnote in a history book if what they did is deemed great. Seriously, think about things you’ve owned, the events of your life, the people around you and then realize that one day, some day it is all going to pass. It is vapor. It vanishes.

In other words, everything about this life is temporary. You and I are temporary. Our homes, our families, our jobs, you name it…all temporary. Now, if you live in an ordered world, where peace and good things are strived after, then all of this stuff about your life can be pleasant and even uplifting as you live through it. But still recognize that it is all going to end.

In a way, that is the main message of the text that is before us. The Lord moved and acted to see to it that these words were recorded for us. I believe that this book of the Bible was written by Solomon. Solomon, son of David, inheritor of a vast kingdom, a man of tremendous wealth and power and most important a man who is recorded as being the wisest man to have ever lived. This is Solomon’s swan song, his last words and testament, his musings, his Godly musings on the real and factual truth of this world. It is vapor. Work is hard. Pain abounds. Life brings frustrations. Then you are gone!

Is that all there is? Seriously, we need to ask ourselves that important question: IS THAT ALL THERE IS!

The answer is: Not with the Lord in the picture. With the Lord in the picture life is a chance to serve and honor him. With the Lord in the picture your life here counts in the life that is to come! That is what God reveals to us, there is a life to come. There is more. And that more is not insignificant or vapor, that more is eternal life and salvation with the Lord God in peace, purity, wonder and joy forever.

That, dear people, is the heart and core of life, the meaning of life. Without the Lord God and what He is and what He has done for we poor, fickle humans, life is nothing. But with the Lord God there is purpose and wonder, marvel, wisdom and a hope to look forward too. That I believe is the whole point of that little line of our text that says: **“This too, I saw, is from God’s hand. For who can eat or enjoy himself apart from Him?”**

So here are some truths that God’s Word gives us, truths from his wisdom that maybe, we should really and truly consider in our lives.

First, no matter who you are or what your human condition: rich, poor, short, tall, smart, slow, or otherwise, please note that God tells you and says that you are somebody. He knows your name. He gave you life and the ability of so many different gifts and wonders. You, yes, YOU are so special to the Lord God that He even came to this earth to die for you and then to grant you the gift of eternal life. You want your child to have self-esteem, to grasp how unique and special they are then teach them about the Lord God and how he has loved them, watches over them and gave Jesus for them. You get that message of God into a heart and the whole picture of life and self changes!

Second. God has revealed the truth of this world and the wonder of his love. When our focus is eternal life because of Jesus and what He has done for us, the point of life and purpose of life changes. For instance, what did Jesus himself say to us? Jn 16:33 **“I have told you these things, so that you may have peace in me. In this world you are going to have trouble. But be courageous! I have overcome the world.”** Solomon was right, this world is trouble, but with God, especially Jesus the goal changes! How about 2 Co. 4:16-18? **“Therefore we are not discouraged. But even if our outer self is wasting away, yet our inner self is being renewed day by day. Yes, our momentary, light trouble produces for us an eternal weight of glory that is far beyond any comparison. We are not focusing on what is seen, but on what is not seen. For the things that are seen are temporary, but the things that are not seen are eternal.”** Did you hear the same message of Ecc? This world is vapor but with God and his promises it all changes? The world is missing this wonder of God’s truth, actually rejects this truth of God and look at the direction it is going. Not so with us, we have Jesus and God’s gracious hand.

Or my favorite (okay, one of many favorites) section of scripture, Ro. 8:18ff. Let me highlight selected verses of this section. **‘For I conclude that our sufferings at the present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us…For we know that all of creation is groaning with birth pains right up to the present time…but we also ourselves…eagerly await our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body…we eagerly wait for it with patient endurance. In the same way the Spirit helps us in our weakness…We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God…If God is for us, who can be against us…For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor rulers, neither things present nor things to come, nor powerful forces, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”**

In light of all of these words, if you think Jesus is only for the next life, then think again. The message of Jesus and his love, the message of his forgiveness won for us on the cross, the truth of his resurrection and the fact that we too will live eternally, his promises of help, comfort, care, compassion and eternal victory are for every day! The truth and marvel of God in Jesus changes everything in every way and in that life and living have meaning, purpose, direction and goal. Jesus is not just for tomorrow, He is for every day of our lives. He is the purpose, the goal and the strength of life, true life, eternal life.

That, Dear people is the point of Ecc. Without God and Jesus life is but a vapor. But with God and Jesus it is an eternal adventure to the joy of heaven. Amen.