

04 – Ecclesiastes 4:1-5:7 – The sacrifice of fools

How do we get the most out of life and what gives life meaning?

Relationship and Life's enjoyment

1) ... if life has better meaning if we exercise power over others.

... the oppressed had tears and no comforter

... the oppressor had no one to comfort them

2) ... relationships driven by envy and covetousness

To have some stuff with tranquillity is the way to go.

3) ... if things in life are better enjoyed or deliver more pleasure if you have people to share them with.

... our relationship with others affects our enjoyment of the things

4) ... relationships bring better purpose, protection and enjoyment...but they do not always last.

5) ... our relationship with God (Ecc 5:1-7)

... we need to be listening to God NOT offer him advice.

... he sets the agenda.

... fear him.

Relationships and us today

- relationships are good.

- relationships with others are better ways to enjoy the things we have gained.

What sort of relationships do you have with others?

What about our relationship with God?

Wealth and Life's enjoyment

... even the way we accumulate our wealth is often unfair. Ecc 5:8

... those making money never have enough.

... Wealth also steals sleep

... **Wealth can harm its owners or be lost in an instant.**

... **wealth is all left behind when we die.**

AND wealth can be enjoyed.

... the 'ever lurking' problem of death.

Wealth and life enjoyment for us today

What drives you in your work?

What are you planning to do with all the things you have gained from your toil on this earth?

Do you see them as a gift from God?

How do you plan to use them in a way that pleases God?

How do you do this without simply pursuing self indulgence?

What is your heart desire concerning your wealth