

## **Five Sermons of Solomon in Ecclesiastes**

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

- 1:1 - 2:26 -- FIRST SERMON: "The Futility of Life Under the Sun."
  - Solomon affirms that all of life under the sun leads to futility in itself alone, yet humankind is to enjoy the goodness in it, because that comes from God.
  
- 3:1-22 -- SECOND SERMON: "To Everything There is a Season."
  - Solomon affirms that although God has appointed contradictory, polar times in life, one can enjoy life when one uses the appointed, contradictory times to motivate his own soul to look to God as the Giver of life.
  
- 4:1 - 5:20 -- THIRD SERMON: "Better with Purpose for Life than with Fear of Death."
  - Solomon affirms that life can be enjoyed rather than fearfully protected and despaired of when one knows God as the One who gives life.
  
- 6:1 - 9:18 -- FOURTH SERMON: "Life is Unfair and then We Die, and the Righteous will take it to Heart."
  - Wisdom is better than folly, but life under the sun will end for both the wise and the fool. Life under the sun is not fair nor is it permanent, and only those who have the Divine perspective can find balance and purpose in it.
  
- 10:1 - 12:14 -- FIFTH SERMON: "A Life with God is a Life Well Lived."
  - A Divine viewpoint enables one to enjoy life, to prefer it to death, to use it for the benefit of others, and to live with a fear of God and in obedience to His word knowing that there will be a future judgment and a better life.