



September 25, 2026

### **A Good Read During this Year's Feast - Ecclesiastes!**

Warm hellos once again friends, brethren, fellow laborers, spiritual family, and scattered children of God from here on the Gulf Coast of lower Alabama. My wife and I pray and hope this finds you doing well, and that again your week has been blessed.

Well tomorrow, on the Sabbath we will have our 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Day Service of this year's Feast of Tabernacles here in Spanish Fort, AL! It's been a busy year with planning, and well, now it is here. Yeah!

Over the last year, we have been in our weekly Sabbath announcement portion of our online worship services covering a verse or two each time from the Proverbs. We are nearing the end of the book as after the Feast we will begin Proverbs 31.

Often, after a long day behind the computer, driving and/or visiting brethren, or working on details perhaps for an article or research, I end my day by sitting in my chair in my "man cave" and read a chapter in the book of Ecclesiastes.

There are so many words of wisdom in the book and some challenging statements to ponder. Some take the book in a cynical way. Sort of like the old Alfred E. Newman character from Mad Magazine. He said, "What me worry? Nothing is going to turn out alright!"

The book opens up with, "*Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher; 'Vanity of vanities, all is vanity.' What profit has a man from all his labor in which he toils under the sun?*" (Ecclesiastes 1:2-3)

People come and go. Possessions are accumulated and then are passed down to someone else or taken to the trash. Cities come and go. Nations come and go. The cycle continues. Whether one is rich or poor the same event will overtake them. They will die. No matter how much human wisdom and knowledge one has accumulated it won't prevent old age and death from coming to him. Life often

seems unfair. Bad things happen to good people. Some evil people seem to escape the consequences of their bad behavior.

There is an important simple repeated instruction. *"Nothing is better for a man than that he should eat and drink, and that his soul should enjoy good in his labor. This also, I saw, was from the hand of God."* (Ecclesiastes 2:24) This is basically repeated in Ecclesiastes 3:13, 5:18 and 8:15. Generally eating and drinking is something we enjoy doing with family and friends. We'll do some of that during the Feast of Tabernacles. It is important to maintain these relationships. One of the greatest assets of any congregation is the getting together of the Ekklesia or family of God to eat, and draw together in solid edifying fellowship. It is one of the reasons we have a "Family Style Meal" each day of the Feast shortly after worship services.

God also directed the first humans to engage in work and labor. *"Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to tend and keep it."* (Genesis 2:15) God is a creator and a worker. Jesus stated, *"My Father worketh hitherto, and I work."* (John 5:17 KJV) My Father is still working even now, and so I am working. (BBE) Our Creator intended that we would find fulfillment in our work.

Solomon expands on this later in the book. *"Go, eat your bread with joy, And drink your wine with a merry heart; For God has already accepted your works. Let your garments always be white, And let your head lack no oil. Live joyfully with the wife whom you love all the days of your vain life which He has given you under the sun, all your days of vanity; for that is your portion in life, and in the labor which you perform under the sun. Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going."* (Ecclesiastes 9:7-10). This is one of my wife's favorite verses.

Solomon may have lived with one wife briefly, but he gave in to acquiring multiple wives who led him into idolatry.

We see Ecclesiastes as a review by Solomon near the end of his life of lessons he has learned. White garments symbolize righteous and lawful actions. Oil can be

symbolic of God's spirit and also of receiving blessings and honor from the one hosting the meal.

God wants us to properly take advantage of the simple but important things of this life while we can, family, fellowship with friends and family and meaningful work and labor. Solomon experienced some of this, but fell short in many of his relationships.

Might I suggest you take time out daily during this year's Feast, and out of your busy lives, and carefully, prayerfully, read and meditate, ponder, muse and consider this book of Ecclesiastes God has blessed us with for review and edification? Read a chapter each day, you'll find it will benefit in more ways than I have time to elaborate here...

Arms up friends! Our sincere prayers and thoughts are with you daily. Thanks in advance for your heartfelt prayers for us.



T. S. Hoefker

Senior Pastor, CGM

Church of God Ministries (CGM)/(Ministerios de la Iglesias de Dios)

[tshoefker@cogministries.org](mailto:tshoefker@cogministries.org) / [www.cogministries.org](http://www.cogministries.org)

P.O. Box 983, Daphne, AL, 36526-0983 / 251-930-1797 Offices