

# The Frustrations of Living without God

Ecclesiastes 6:1-12

*The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king  
in Jerusalem (1:1).*

The writer of this book had more money, enjoyed more pleasure, exercised more power, and possessed more human wisdom than anyone else in the world, yet everything still ended in frustration.

The same will happen to us if we live for ourselves rather than for God.

“Why make your own mistakes,” the writer is saying to us, “when you can learn from an expert like me instead?”

- Philip Ryken

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(v.1)

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*There is an evil that I have seen under the sun, and it lies heavy on mankind: a man to whom God gives wealth, possessions, and honor, so that he lacks nothing of all that he desires, yet God does not give him power to enjoy them, but a stranger enjoys them. (vv.1-2)*

Many children –

v.3 - *If a man fathers a hundred children*

A long life –

v.3 - *and lives many years, so that the days of his years are many, but his soul is not satisfied with life's good things,*

v.6 - *Even though he should live a thousand years twice over, yet enjoy no good*

v.3 - *and he also has no burial*

“It all goes to show that a person can have the things men dream of — which in Old Testament terms meant children by the score, and years of life by the thousand — and still depart unnoticed, unlamented and unfulfilled.”

- Philip Ryken

v.1 - *There is an evil that I have seen under the sun, and it lies heavy on mankind.*

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2. The ability to enjoy what we have comes from  
God:

*God does not give him power to enjoy them.  
(v.2)*

v.2 - God gives wealth, possessions, and honor,  
so that he lacks nothing of all that he desires,

God is the One who enables us to enjoy the basics of life such as eating, drinking, and working (2:24–25).

God is the One who gives us the days and health to enjoy anything, and to be content with His gifts (3:12–13; 5:18–20)

II. Life is frustrating when you fail to accept that God is sovereign. (6:10-12)

*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. (Rom.8:28)*

“I would love to thank EVERYONE who has reached out to me. Toughest days of my life. But not the last! Life goes on. GOD IS STILL GREAT!”

- Isaiah Austin