How do we live in a fallen world?

- The hope of Scripture is Blessing – Salvation

- The opposition to Salvation
  - The way of the world – folly
  - The adversities of life
  - The futility of life

- The Wisdom Literature speaks to this situation
  - Proverbs – the way of Wisdom v. the way of folly
  - Job – the trial of faith
  - Ecclesiastes – the futility of life

- The book of Ecclesiastes
  - Qohelet – King Solomon
    - A single writer
    - One before the assembly

Outline
1. Introduction – 1:1-11
2. The Royal Experiment – 1:12-2:26
3. The Reflections on Meaning – 3:1-12:8
4. Epilogue – 12:9-14

Theme: Vanity of vanities. All is Vanity (Eccl. 1:1-11)
- an unfilled ocean
- an unsatisfied eye and ear
- nothing new

The testimony of Qohelet (Eccl. 1:12-2:26)
- The vain pursuit of wisdom
- The vain pursuit of pleasure

- Lesson 2: A Time for Every Purpose under the Sun
  - The Sovereignty of God (Eccl. 3:1-15)
  - The insignificance of man (Eccl. 3:16-4:16)
The sovereignty of God  
Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

- A season and a time for every activity of life (3:1-9)
  An assigned time
  Divinely assigned
  Outside of human control
  – No gain from work (3:9)
  – God has done this (3:11)
  The significance
  – No human freedom
  – A discouraging message

- God controls the times (3:10-13)
  Qohelet is not pessimistic
  Divinely assigned duty – beautiful
  Not discoverable
  Eternity within
  A gift from God.

- God’s omnipotence (3:14-15)
  Eternal
  Lead us to fear God
Man’s insignificance – the indignity of man
Ecclesiastes 3:16-4:16

- Justice and righteousness (3:16-22)
  There is none
  A coming time of justice
  Man is no better than the beasts.

- Oppression (4:1-3)
  A common discomfort
  Man is better not to be

- The futility of work (4:4-8)
  Driven by envy
  Destroyed by idleness
  Deceived by work
  An illustration of the futility of work

- The advantage of community (4:9-12)
  Two are better than one
  A threefold cord is not quickly broken

- The futility of wisdom (4:13-16)
  The poor wise youth and the foolish old king
  No lasting legacy
Vanity of vanities! All is vanity!

- Because God is Sovereign
- Because man is ignoble – depraved

Yet you say, ‘The way of the LORD is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?” (Ezekiel 18:25)

“If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.” (1 Corinthians 15:19)

“My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my persecutors! Make your face shine on your servant; save me in your steadfast love.” (Psalm 31:15-16)

“My soul, wait thou only upon God, for my expectation is from Him.” (Psalm 62:5)

“. . .working in us that which is pleasing in His sight through Jesus Christ, to Whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.” (Hebrews 13:21)

“As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness; when I awake, I shall be satisfied with your likeness.” (Psalm 17:15)