



Reading Ecclesiastes

Vanity of Vanities?

Smoky Hill church of Christ

FALL
2023

4. FOR WHOM AM I TOILING? (3.16-4.16)

WISDOM PROVIDES

OBSERVATION

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Staring Down the Mountain *(Eccl 3.16–4.3)*

LIFE IS GOOD (3.9–15)

...BUT STILL (3.16–22)

...AND AGAIN (4.1–3)



“But still...”

ECCLESIASTES 3.16–22

GOD AND **INJUSTICE**

King or peasant? Sight or faith?

IN WHOSE **IMAGE**

Gen 2.7 vs. 1.20–21

ALL GO TO **ONE PLACE**

Gen 3.19; Job 34.14f; Psa 104.29f

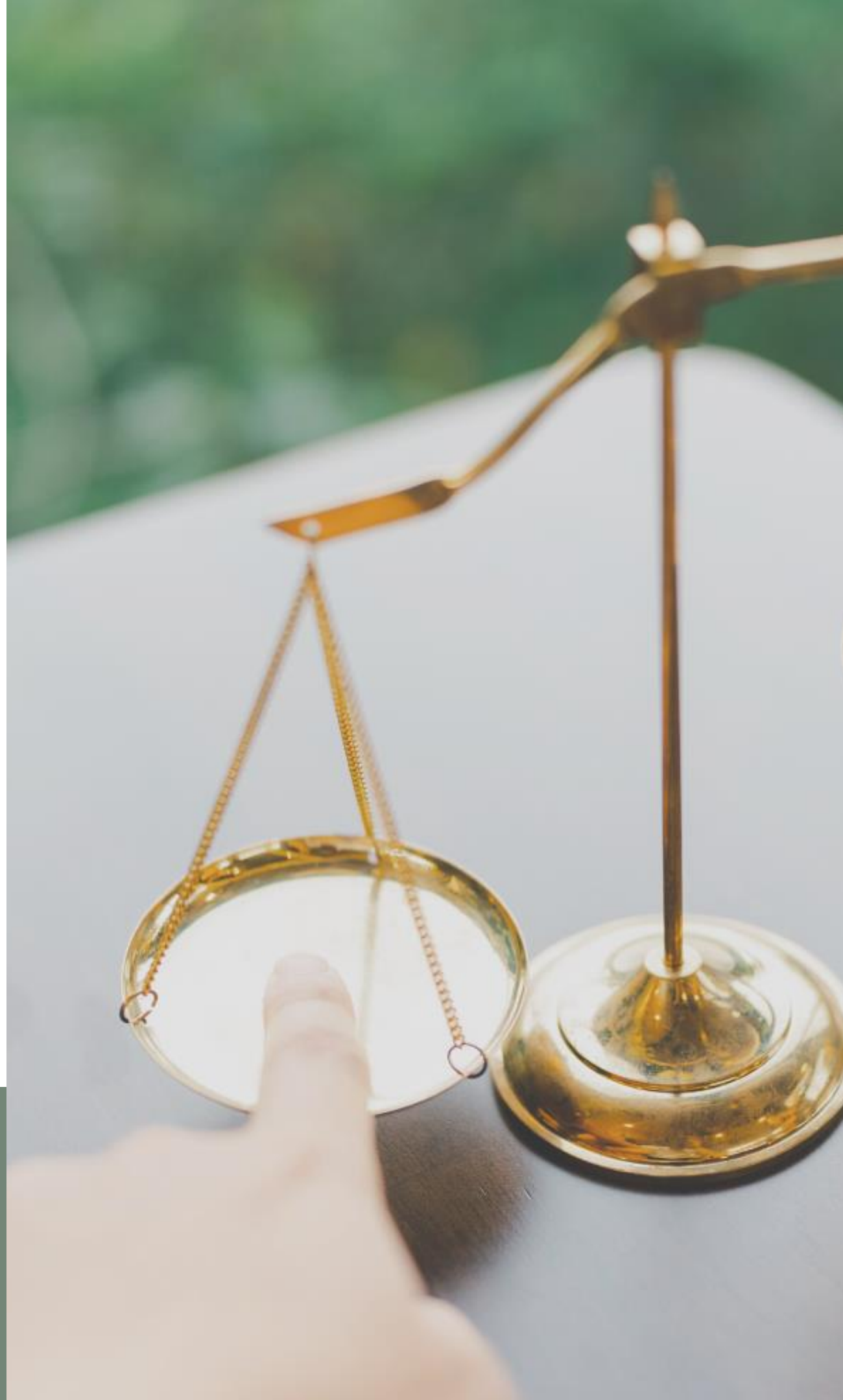
NOTHING BETTER

Ecc1 2.24; 3.12; 3.22; 8.15

ECCLESIASTES 3.22B

“Who can enable him to see what will happen after he dies?”

**This is THE
Question of the
Old Testament.**



Still, injustice *(4.1–3)*

WHAT IS THE **PROBLEM**

cf. Prv 22.16; 28.3

WHAT IS THE SOLUTION

Prv 31.8–9; Mic 6.8

SO... WHAT'S THE POINT?

4.4.16

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Who Whom?

ECCLESIASTES 4.4-16

ENVY AND FOOLISHNESS (4.4–6)

cf. Prv 6.10; 24.33

LEGACY AND TOIL (4.7–16)

Does it matter if you have a legacy?

BETTER THAN (4.6, 9, 13)

What hints are given?

ECCLESIASTES 3-4

Better to...

4

VANITY OF VANITIES?





READ

Ecclesiastes 5.1–6.12



QUESTIONS

- 1) What does the author think about **vows**?
- 2) How does this **fit** with the rest of Ecclesiastes?
- 3) How does the author talk about **kings** and **oppression**?
- 4) Does it change how the author/we think(s) about the value **hard work**? How about **death**?



Next Class

5. VANITY AND VANITY (5.1–6.12)