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VANITY

Solomon started out with great wisdom until he allowed pagan wives to influence him. There are tremendous lessons in the Book of Ecclesiastes. The word "vanity" is used thirty-seven times in this book. In chapter 2 verse 14 it says, ***"I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit."***

He had everything anyone could desire in the natural and giftings from God in the spiritual, but it did not bring him satisfaction. In chapter 2:17 it says, ***"Therefore I have hated life; because the work that is wrought under the sun is grievous unto me: for all is vanity and vexation of spirit."***

You can have it all, but still be vexed in spirit. It means to be frustrated, annoyed and worried. When man seeks after things of the world, it is in vain because they do not last. As the poem by Charles T. Studd says, *"Only one life, 'twill soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last."*

We are to seek after the things that last and are not temporary. All we do will be tested as by fire, and only those things done for God will not be burned.

In the closing statement of Ecclesiastes, Solomon says in chapter 12:13-14, ***"<sup>13</sup> Let us hear the conclusion of the matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. <sup>14</sup> For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."*** It appears as he wrote this that he realized the truth of what really was important in life and that was to serve God. Let us be mindful of it too.