

22 May 2016: Preached by Preacher Clement Chew

Topic: Studies in Ecclesiastes: Vain Endeavours!

Scripture text: Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

1. The author of the book of Ecclesiastes is king Solomon. He was giving spiritual instructions to the people sharing his life's experiences. Solomon was the wisest man on earth and also possessed abundant riches and wealth. But because of his backsliding, he experienced the futility of life.

2. Solomon used the phrase "vanity of vanities" to describe his assessment of life in all his endeavours under the sun. The word "vanity" is vapour and all things on earth is indeed temporal and worthless especially when one faces death. The phrase "under the sun" tells us that all labour and achievements on earth without God will end up only in vanity.

3. The futility of life is seen in one generation after another generation. No one can stop this process. Man is created from the dust and will one day return to the dust. This is seen just like the sun, wind and water cycle returning back to its original place.

4. There is no new thing under the sun - this is because all men have sinned and without God, there is no purpose in life and sinful men can never find a solution to his sinful condition. Life on earth without God is vanity as one day all things on earth will be destroyed.

5. Solomon wasted a large part of his life living in regrets pursuing after the vanities of this world. Let us learn the lesson to labour hard for the Lord and His glory only.