

29 May 2016: Preached by Preacher Clement Chew

Topic: Studies in Ecclesiastes: Vain Achievements!

Scripture text: Ecclesiastes 1:12-18

1. King Solomon achieved many things in his life as king of Israel. He was very successful in the eyes of all the people as he had great riches, houses, horses etc. Solomon gave his heart to pursue all these worldly achievements. At the end of it, he said it is a mere sore travail that he regretted.
2. The reason why Solomon felt all his achievements were futile was because he did it "under the sun" i.e. without seeking after God. Solomon said that one can work very hard to achieve earthly success but yet it never can reach the end of it. With an achievement in one area, there comes other problems in life.
3. At the end of his life in trying to achieve many worldly things, Solomon called it madness and folly. He knew that worldly achievements are temporal and cannot lead to eternal life in heaven. One day God will destroy this world and everything will be gone then. It was Solomon's sin in disobeying God that led him to such vanity in pursuing after worldly things. It only led him to vexation of his spirit.
4. For a believer, what is our response to labour in life? The Bible tells us to work hard whatsoever is in our hands to do. But we submit everything in God's will in all our labours and to do all to the glory of God. We ought to be the best whatever God wants us to be.
5. Philippians chapter 3 exhorts us to count all things but dung that we may win Christ. We must never place our security and hope in worldly success.