

Message Title: Difficult Lessons in this Troubled World

Ecclesiastes 4:4-16 NASB | Sunday AM, October 24th,2021 Pastor Derek Mackie

⁴I have seen that every labor and every skill which is done is *the* result of rivalry between a man and his neighbor. This too is vanity and striving after wind. 5 The fool folds his hands and consumes his own flesh. One hand full of rest is better than two fists full of labor and striving after wind. ⁷Then I looked again at vanity under the sun. 8 There was a certain man without a dependent, having neither a son nor a brother, yet there was no end to all his labor. Indeed, his eyes were not satisfied with riches and he never asked, "And for whom am I laboring and depriving myself of pleasure?" This too is vanity and it is a grievous task. 9 Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor. 10 For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up. ¹¹Furthermore, if two lie down ,together they keep warm, but how can one be warm alone? 12 And if one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart. ¹³A poor yet wise lad is better than an old and foolish king who no longer knows how to receive instruction. ¹⁴ For he has come out of prison to become king, even though he was born poor in his kingdom. ¹⁵I have seen all the living under the sun throng to the side of the second lad who replaces him. 16 There is

the ones who will come later will not be happy with him, for this too is vanity and striving after wind. Introduction 1. The _____ of Power (vv.1-3)

no end to all the people, to all who were before them, and even

2.	The Barriers to Meaningful		(VV.4-12)
	A	(v.4)	
	В	(v.5)	
	c	(v.6)	
	D	(v.7)	

3. The Fading Nature of	(vv.13-16)

Application Questions

- 1. Why are oppressed people hopeless and helpless? What hope do they have (cf. Isaiah 11)?
- 2. What motivates you to work with fervor for many hours?
- 3. What encouragement would you give for the lazy person?
- 4. In what ways does envy lead to a loss of companionship?
- 5. Why do political solutions for society's problems fail?

BE A DOER. Your responsibility, by God's enabling, is to consistently apply the divine principles and truths you have heard (Phil 2:12-13; 1 Tim 4:7-9; James 1:22-27). As you meditate on this message, ask yourself these questions: (1) How does God want my beliefs/actions to change? (2) How can I accomplish this change? (3) What is the first step toward bringing about this change?