



## Affluence without Enjoyment

Ecclesiastes 6:1-12

**Some people ask**, “Wouldn’t life without God be a kick? No more rules or judgment or constraints or accountability or nagging conscience! Party on! Use my money for me! Don’t worry, be happy! Go for the gusto! Achieve, amass, enjoy it all!”

- **The question then becomes**, “How is that working for you?”

Reality #1. Even glittering achievements and amassed wealth don’t necessarily bring joy. (vv1-6)

Reality #2. There is a compulsion about working to eat to work to eat to work... (vv 7-9)

Reality #3. Our fleeting lives are brimming with challenges and futilities. (vv 10-12)

**Solomon’s Point:** Life without God...is like a human anthill—scurrying, carrying, achieving, amassing, sweating, dropping, fleeting, and no guarantee of enjoyment.

- **And:** The ability to enjoy our gifts is itself a gift from God.

**The alternative:** So what does life with God deliver? (This is the partial list!)

**For Instance:** Solomon’s experience and our experiences.

**Live Differently:** Since life without God is as futile as a human anthill I will pursue God this week by \_\_\_\_\_.

# “Walking Papers”

Practical helps for walking the Christian walk each day this week.

**Solomon’s Point:** Life without God...is like a human anthill—scurrying, carrying, achieving, amassing, sweating, dropping, fleeting, and no guarantee of enjoyment.

- **Today:** List any ways that your life feels like the “human anthill.”
- **Monday:** List any ways that “just living in a sinful world” has robbed you of joy.
- **Tuesday:** Do you have significant accomplishments that did not deliver joy as you believed they would? What were they? What happened afterward?
- **Wednesday:** In what ways do you feel the “shadow” nature of your life?
- **Thursday:** What one thing would you like to do in order to more powerfully connect your life and activities to God? When will you start? Who will help?
- **Friday:** Since huge chunks of reality are fixed and beyond our changing (v 10) what are the specific applications for you of Dr. Edmund’s statement for gaining mental health? “I will adjust to life immediately, completely, and graciously.”
- **Saturday:** Is your greatest adjustment struggle with the “immediately” or the “completely” or the “graciously?”

# “Companionship Papers”

Dialogue questions for helping each other in the Christian walk this week.

## GETTING STARTED:

- In what ways is your life and work like a “human anthill?”
- Describe the life of someone you know who appears to “not be on the anthill.”

## LOOK AT THE TEXT:

- How is it that a person could have all that they desire and still not have joy? v 2
- What is the presupposition underlying Solomon’s declaration that a miscarriage is better than a 2,000 year life with hundreds of children? vv 3-6
- Generally speaking wisdom is better than foolishness. That said, what are the two ways in this Book that Solomon says wisdom is no better than foolishness?
- How would you paraphrase or explain verse 7?
- What does Solomon mean by “what the eye sees is better than what the soul desires?” v 9
- In what sense is “the few years of our life like a shadow?” What should we do?

## LIVE DIFFERENTLY:

- Since huge chunks of reality are fixed and beyond our changing (v 10) what are the specific applications for you of Dr. Edmund’s statement for gaining mental health? “I will adjust to life immediately, completely, and graciously.”
- Is your greatest adjustment struggle with the “immediately” or the “completely” or the “graciously?”