

## Changing Vanity into Victory

*Ecclesiastes 2:11*

### Introduction

Life is vanity if it is disconnected from God and eternity. In Ecclesiastes 2:11 the word vanity is used to describe the meaninglessness or emptiness of existence, if lived apart from God.

Pleasure, education, and prosperity can all be considered good things but are completely vain when disconnected from God's eternal perspective. This is why Ecclesiastes 2:11 states "there was no profit under the sun," because this life lived under the sun is a temporary period of time that will one day wither away. Only those pursuits which glorify God and matter to Him for eternity count. Only those things that we do for Christ will last.

So how do we overcome vanity? How does one move from attitudes and actions that are vain in nature to those that will allow the believer to experience victory in time and eternity? First, the believer must be committed to connecting their everyday activities and patterns of thinking to eternity. Through the study of God's Word, fellowship with Him in prayer, and being in community with other believers, we can come to know what matters through the lenses of God's eternal perspective. Second, we must keep in mind that life is a gift from God and therefore it should be enjoyed. A victorious life is not a list of do's and don'ts in order to avoid consequences. Life is an experience to be enjoyed as we prioritize what is important to the Father. Lastly, we can overcome vanity by remembering that everything we do in the here and now will be judged.

When we keep eternity and God's purpose front and center in our minds, we can walk in victory that will outlast our time on earth and count for eternity.

### Getting Started

1. Before today's sermon, when you thought of the word "vanity" what did you think of? How does that meaning connect with the meaning Pastor gave today?
2. Have you ever felt like your life lacked meaning? What do you think led to you experiencing this feeling?

### Let's Get Personal

1. Based on Pastor's definition of vanity, do you struggle with vanity? How so? Share with your group.
2. It is so easy to find your value and worth in things you have accumulated or cherish. What are some temporary things in which you may have placed too much value?
3. According to Ecclesiastes 2:11, profit is not gained here on earth but our true reward is reserved for our life in eternity. How can you better use what you have today for the good of God's eternal kingdom?
4. Do you believe that moving forward in prioritizing eternity will impact a person who has a sense of meaninglessness in their life? With whom can you share the message of victorious living?

### Take the Next Step

1. What will you do this week that counts from God's eternal perspective?
2. What is interfering with you moving from vanity to victory? Talk about an accountability plan with your group members to help move you towards a godly perspective in this area.
3. Want to dig deeper? This week in your time alone with God, read the entire book of Ecclesiastes. Write in your Bible or in a journal what principles about the brevity of life you find and how you plan to adjust your life accordingly to this knowledge. Share your discoveries with your group next week.

### Renew Your Mind

*"The conclusion is... fear God and keep His commandments..."*  
*Ecclesiastes 12:13*