

I. Job: God, Devil and Suffering

- A. Job's friends: If good people suffer are they really good?
- B. Job: If good people suffer is God really good? Is it worth pursuing righteousness? (Job 34.9)
- C. Us: Is questioning God considered unbelief? (Job 40.8)
- D. The Gospel according to Job
Job 9.33 There is no arbiter between us,
who might lay his hand on us both.

II. Proverbs: The Good Life

- A. The Way
- B. The Guides
- C. The Sirens on the Side of the Road
- D. How proverbs work: Prov. 26:11 Like a dog that returns to his vomit
is a fool who repeats his folly.

III. Ecclesiastes: Imagine There's No Heaven, Only Sky

- A. A believer's thought experiment
- B. Experiential astronaut: exploring the extremes of human experience - e.g. learning and pleasure

Ecc. 2:2 I said of laughter, "It is mad," and of pleasure, "What use is it?"

Ecc. 2:10 And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil.

Ecc. 2:22 What has a man from call the toil and striving of heart with which he toils beneath the sun?

Ecc. 2:23 For all his days are full of sorrow, and his work is a vexation. Even in the night his heart does not rest. This also is vanity.

Ecc. 2:24 ¶ There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment* in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God,

Eccl. 2:25 for apart from him* who can eat or who can have enjoyment?

The paradox of wisdom regarding human toil: We work so that another may enjoy it (impermanence) and this is empty/meaningless, but the joy we receive from work, eating, drinking, marriage, and knowledge comes from God (gracious gifts).

C. Big questions:

- Is meaning constructed or received by revelation?
- If all “under the Son” activities end up empty, should we flee to religious activities for meaning?

IV. Song of Solomon: Red Hot Monogamy

A. Historical responses:

- 1) Too hot to handle > Allegorical interpretation (Origen, Jerome, Augustine)
- 2) It's all about Jesus > Typological interpretation (Calvin, Church Fathers)
- 3) It's all about love/sex > Literal with Christological implications (Mark Driscoll “The Peasant Princess” Series, Tommy Nelson, Pastor Shawn)

B. Theological response:

Sex isn't a destination it's a road sign. (Jesus)

Mark 12:25 For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.

Luke 20:34 ¶ And Jesus said to them, “The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage, Luke 20:35 but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage.

Eph. 5:31 “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”

Eph. 5:32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

Rev. 21:2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Rev. 21:9 ¶ Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, “Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.”

