

# **Ecclesiastes Chapter Four**

## **Verses 1-12**

# It's Vain To Work Considering Only Yourself!

- The writer here is grieved to observe how might seems to triumph over right (the children's crisis at the Mexican border; children herded like cattle to makeshift kennels)
- We see wicked people create trouble and misery for themselves and others
- Events like this would tempt one to despise life
- If human and worldly things were our only dreams, then not to exist may be preferable to living, considering the vicissitudes life brings

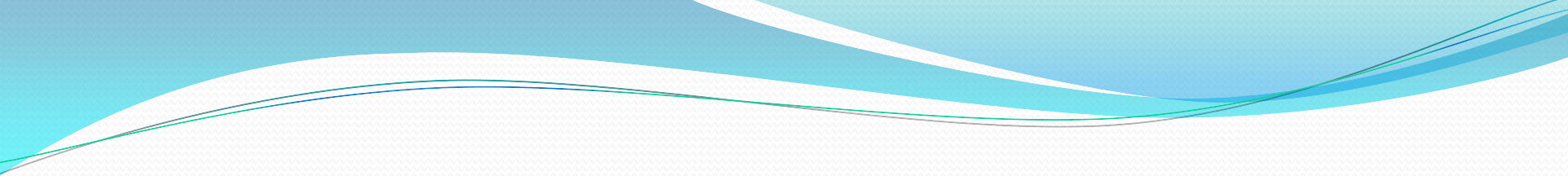
# 1 Corinthians 15:13-19

*“But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up---if in fact the dead do not rise.....”*

..... *“For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.”*

# Verses 4-6

- The writer says that some people are lazy and others are workaholics.
- Lazy people look at the craziness of being controlled by chasing riches wealth and idle their time away, thereby hurting themselves and those who depend on them
- Workaholics are often driven by the greed to succeed and the desire to stay ahead of everybody else
- Both extremes are foolish and show a lack of responsibility
- The answer is to work hard, but in moderation, and take time to enjoy other gifts that God has given us (balance the idea that sometimes time is worth more than money with “if a man does not work, neither should he eat”)

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- Verse 5 says that a lazy person's attitude and their lack of respect for the discipline of work is their own suicide
  - Verse 6 gives room for balance in one's profession

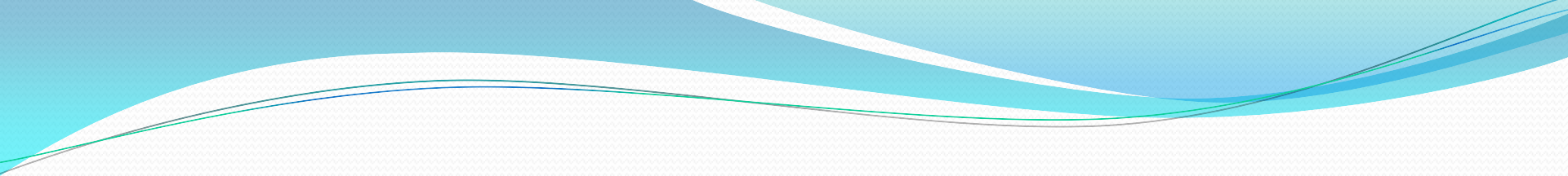
***“Better a handful with quietness  
Than both hands full, together with toil and  
grasping for the wind.”***

- Dr. Bob Utley's commentary on verse 6 is insightful:  
*“Life is a competition for food, for shelter, for work, for possessions, for honor, for control! This is the philosophy of atheistic humanism. Power makes right! This is the human ego run amuck! Without God, the only motive is me! This is where laissez faire capitalism is a human curse! This is where communism failed! Every human is envious, every human takes advantage. Every human exploits his fellow human. Life without God is a “dog eat dog” life of competition and unsatisfied lust for more-and-more- for me at any cost.”*

- Verse 7 the writer again exclaims that life without God is meaningless
- Verse 8 shows the epitome of covetousness and greed  
Here is a man who is “the center of his own existence.” He has no son, nor a brother, no wife, no legal heir to his savings, yet his intention is to get money as if he was providing for a large family, yet he refuses to ask himself, “when do I enjoy the fruit of my labor, or who am I working for?”

He is called foolish as well. He doesn't avoid the slings and arrows of life either! (No investment of his life in God to look out for him)



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- Verses 9-12 extol the virtues of companionship. Cooperating with others has its advantages
  - Life is designed for companionship and not isolation, for intimacy and not loneliness
  - We are not here on earth to serve ourselves but God and others. So don't isolate yourself in God's kingdom.  
Romans 12:3-5

- Verse 9,10, *“Two are better than one, Because they have a good reward for their labor.  
For if they fall, one will lift up his companion.  
But woe unto him who is alone when he falls,  
For he has no one to help him up.”*

- Even in the spiritual sense, if one falls into religious errors, unsavory habits or practices, a good friend may save his or her soul from death

***“Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him, Let him know, he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.”***

***James 5:19-20***

# The Plan Of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38