

Sunday, September 10, 2017
"Chasing the Wind"
Ecclesiastes 1:1 – 2:26
Pastor Wayne Shelton

The book of Ecclesiastes is one of the wisdom books of the Old Testament. It is a book that brings to us the wisdom of God, and does so in a twofold way: (1) It seeks to make us wise about the life of faith lived out in a fallen world. It seeks to impress upon us that wisdom will look at this world for what it is – a fallen world, a sinful world, a world that God has appointed to futility or frustration (see Rom. 8:20). But alongside that, Solomon also wants (2) to impress upon God's church, that even though we live 'under the sun', the ache in our hearts, which belongs to the very fabric of our existence as people made in the image of God, that very ache, can only be satisfied beyond the sun (*God 'has put eternity into man's heart'*, Eccles. 3:11).

Hence, there is a note of unrelenting frustration pulsing through every Christian believer. The reason for that is simple: we are far from home, living in bodies where sin troubles us, and in a world that God has cursed because of the fall. In this sermon, we consider the first passage (1:3-2:26), in which Solomon begins his search for a meaningful life, and uncover a hint of hope as he concludes: 'There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil' (2:24).

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