

Welcome to WoW2, Women of Worship, Women of Witness. This newsletter captures topics discussed during our February 1, 2022, meeting. This newsletter seeks to capture some, but not all, key points from our evening together, with like topics being conveniently grouped together. We hope you are blessed as you join us on our journey.

Declaration of Faith: We will gain emotional wellness and strength for the Promised Land by believing, receiving, and obeying the truth of God's Word when it comes to deliverance from bondage, deliverance through sanctification, and deliverance from bitterness and doubt.

OPENING

We opened with the song, "In Your Time" | WorshipMob original by Colten May & Aaron McClain (+spontaneous). We opened our meeting in prayer and then took a moment to review for those who were not present during our last meeting followed by further discussion of Ecclesiastes Chapter 2.

DISCUSSION

In v3, because of the effect that wine (alcohol) has on our systems, Solomon stimulating his body with wine and his mind guiding him seemed like an oxymoron. However, we don't know that the wine of then was like the wine of now.

In v9, we once again noticed how self-focused Solomon was. This led us to Proverbs 16:18, "Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall" (NIV). The lesson I learned from this verse is that pride leads to the destruction (the consequence), but we still have room to repent. Should we choose to take the "haughty" route and not repent, that is when we fall!

Solomon had male and female slaves, so we wondered how much labor he had done, yet he was taking credit for the outcomes. We likened this to how in the marketplace a supervisor can take credit for what his or her employees accomplish. This

Upcoming Events

February 15

Social

March 1

Night of Prayer

March 8

Vision Check

Current Vision

Revive! Restore. Refresh.
Renew – Emotional wellness
in the wilderness and
strength for the Promised
Land.

Scripture(s)

Isaiah 57:15; Isaiah 43:19

Additional Verses: Romans 8:15, Romans 6:4, 2 Timothy 2:15, Ephesians 4:23, Romans 12:1-2, Hebrews 12:14-15, James 1:5-6, and John 6:29

Inspirational Song(s)

"On Our Way" by MercyMe
feat. Sam Wesley

"Revive" by WorshipMob

Current Study:

Ecclesiastes

also reminded us of when Jesus said when we fed the hungry, etc., we did those things unto Him (Matt 25:31-36). So, when we do all things unto the Lord, the Lord gets the credit!

Reflecting on “under the sun” created a landmark moment for me. Several days earlier, as I sat spending time with the Lord, I looked around at the accolades I received from the military that were surrounding me, and I realized those were things that happened “under the sun,” and had no eternal value. So, for the first time since I got out of the military, I was able to totally detach my identity and value from those things to attach my value to who I am in Christ and the eternal value of serving others. For that revelation, I was very grateful!

In V16, we once again noted, everyone dies, but you can't take all that stuff with you.

We noticed Solomon uses the word fool a lot, yet we're instructed to not call anyone a fool (Matt 5:22); therefore, we also looked at how the Bible says the fool says in their heart is no God (Psalm 14:1, and 53:1).

In v14, Solomon says the fool walks in darkness. We noted how there is no darkness in God (1 John 1:5). This led us to Scriptures that refer to Jesus as the light of the world and how people see a great light (John 8:12, John 9:5 and to Matt 4:16, which is a quote from Isa 9:1-2). So, we concluded that the fool has not received the light of God!

In v18, Solomon didn't know if those who came behind him would poison his wells or let them dry up! The present-day application of this is when we save money for our children's college education. We have no idea what they are going to do with it. Even when it comes to ministries we start, we have no idea what will happen to them once we are gone.

In v19, we noted Solomon may have done some of the labor himself, because he said, he “poured [his] effort and skill” (NIV). We noted we tend to care more when we “have skin in the game.”

In v20, one translation says Solomon got depressed because of all his hard work (CEV). This led to a discussion how some may feel it's wrong when a person gains from someone else's hard work. This led to a discussion on Proverbs 13:22. We noted how the words



Homework

Ecclesiastes 3

Next Meeting

Tuesday, February 8, 2022 @ 7:00pm.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about information contained in this document, please email us at wow2@wow2women.com or complete a Contact Form on our website.

good (H2896) and “wealth” (Strong’s H2428) have a very broad definition, so this verse can be talking about more than just finances; it can also be referring to receiving blessings from God, especially since there are other Scriptures that talk about an inheritance that have nothing to do with money. For example, the Holy Spirit “is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession -to the praise of his glory (Eph 1:14 NIV).

In v21, the words “wisdom,” “knowledge,” and “skill” stood out to me, but can’t really explain why!

In V23, we noted how, even today, we can allow our occupation to keep us from resting.

Verses 24-25, highlight how all good things come from God. When He created the earth, God used the word “good” several times. As those living on the earth and “under the sun,” we get to partake of His good things, but there is no real enjoyment outside of Him because He’s the one that allows us to rest rather than worry.

In v24, we noted pride can look like us being puffed up about ourselves or we can have pride that we did a good job. In other words, it’s good to do a good job and acknowledge the good that was done without being boastful about it. We even saw in **v26**, how God gives “wisdom, knowledge, and joy” to the one “who is pleasing in his sight (CSB).

We summarized the chapter with, apart from God, pleasure, possessions, nor work are satisfying. It’s all futile because none of it lasts! For example, when we go on a trip, we’re usually planning that next trip or that next thing that we’re looking forward to. It’s like being on a hamster wheel, which reminded me of how a guest talked about the “hedonistic treadmill” in a recent podcast episode.ⁱ When we’re on this treadmill, we’re trying to seek that ultimate pleasure out of life, in essence, forever chasing rainbows or as the article we found said, trying to get back to our “baseline level of happiness.”ⁱⁱ

Biblical happiness is not the same as worldly happiness. In some translations **Psalms 146:5** uses the word “happy,” while other translations use the word “blessed,” so we looked up the original Hebrew word, and it’s a noun (Strong’s H835) that comes from a verb meaning “to be straight” (Strong’s H8333).

Some highlights from our takeaways

God knew this is the perfect time for us to do this study. He knew every hurt and pain we would have or would be experiencing and that we would need this study.

We were able to connect our study in Ephesians to our current group vision. Our entire vision is about keeping the right perspective “under the sun” for emotional wellness in the Wilderness and strength for the Promised Land.

Pleasure, possessions, and work, apart from God, are not satisfying, nor does it have eternal value.

This study is to help us keep the right perspective “under the sun,” so we can put all things “under the Son.” When we know all things are under His feet, we can rest in trusting Him to take care of it, which He has done and is doing!

When we've done all that we can, we stand (Eph 6:3), which is something we learned during the Ephesians study we recently completed. That seed is now producing fruit, especially for one of our sisters, who has had to do just that—stand in the face of adversity and allow God to fight her battles!

RESOURCES

Links to the Song(s) from this meeting:

In Your Time | WorshipMob original by Colten May & Aaron McClain (+spontaneous)
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wkErY2eoBVI>)

"3 Hour Peaceful & Relaxation Music | Christian Meditation Music | Holy Spirit | Time Alone With God" – DappyT Keys Piano Worship (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3oBpV1t_qcc)

Another In The Fire (Live) - Hillsong UNITED (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zmNc0L7Ac5c>)

ⁱ Ferrell, Sebra. "Wayside Wendy." *Raising Godly Women*. 03 February 2022.
<https://raisinggodlywomen.buzzsprout.com/1792483/9999577-wayside-wendy>.

ⁱⁱ Pennock, Seph Fontaine. "The Hedonic Treadmill – Are We Forever Chasing Rainbows?". *Positive Psychology.com*, 12 July 2021, <https://positivepsychology.com/hedonic-treadmill/>.