

Ecclesiastes 5:12-20

“As you come, so you go”

Sermon Outline:

4 Observations from the Preacher:

1. Money makes a terrible pillow (12)
2. No guaranteed promise (13-14)
3. No pockets in grave clothes (15-16)
4. The pain is not worth the gain (17)

Psalm 127:1-2— “Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating bread of anxious toil; for he gives his beloved sleep.

Take Home:

- **Praise God for your portion (18-20)**
 - “Find enjoyment”
 - Our portion comes from God
 - Time, wealth, possessions, power
 - Accepting our portions comes from God
 - Rejoicing in our portion comes from God
- **Gift of the “hevel”**
 - Only God can bring satisfaction
 - He gives the gift and the ability to enjoy it
 - The gift cannot satisfy, it lacks the sustaining power
 - God uses the “hevel” to bring us to Him
 - ***1 Timothy 6:17-19— “As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.”***
 - Don’t waste your “portion”
 - **Verse 20— not much time focusing on the “hevel” when your occupied with the goodness of the Lord**

Psalm 121

Small Group Discussion:

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you from the Bible passage and sermon Sunday? What stood out to you? What questions do you have?
2. How have you seen the pursuit of wealth and security actually lead to anxiety and restlessness? What helps you rest in God's provision rather than possessions?
3. What does it look like to live with eternity in view when it comes to your resources, career, and goals? How does 1 Timothy 6:17-19 challenge you?
4. Where do you see the temptation to overwork or chase success "in vain," as Psalm 127:1-2 describes?
5. How can we learn to find joy in the "portion" God has given us— our time, work, possessions, or influence? What practical ways can we focus more on the "goodness of God" than the "hevel"?