

Good things that won't last
3. Work, wealth, possessions,
and security in Ecclesiastes



The idol of status

1 Qoheleth's perspective 2:4–11
a someone who had it all vv 4–10
b and yet all is *hebel* v 11

2 Work in a *hebel* world 2:18–26 and 4:4–12
a the potential pitfalls of work

- you can't hold on to your work 2:18–21
- the confessions of a workaholic 2:22–23
- driven on by envy 4:4

b Qoheleth's solutions

- be satisfied with what God has given you 2:24–26
- have tranquillity with one handful 4:5–6 *cf.* 10:18;
- work for the good of others 4:9–12

3 Wealth and possessions in a *hebel* world 5:10–20
a the problems with wealth and possessions

- love of money can never be satisfied vv 10–11
- you can't hold onto wealth vv 13–15 *cf.* Luke 16:13; Mark 8:34–36

b Qoheleth's solutions

- be satisfied with what God has given you v 18
- even if you're rich 5:19–6:2

4 Living rightly in a *hebel* world

a smash the idol of status

b reflect the character of the giving God