

Ecclesiastes 1-2 • Under the Sun

1. (v.1:1-11) Believers can immediately identify spiritual **deception** by its claim to be something “**new**”. Every generation faces the same **questions**.
2. (v.1:12-18) **Knowing** God’s Word is no substitute for putting it into **practice**.
3. (v.2:1-3) Even so-called “**moderate**” worldly activities can lead away from the Word and ways of God as effectively as full-on “**addiction**”.
4. (v.2:4-11) Even the benefits of **hard work** can lead away from the Word and ways of God when exclusively performed for our **self** rather than **others**.
5. **Summary**: The three types of searches to understand the point of one’s labors in this life:
 - a. The **intellectual** search which typifies a search of the **mind**. (1:12-18)
 - b. The **hedonistic** search which typifies a search of the **heart**. (2:1-3)
 - c. The personal **works** search which typifies a search of the **soul**. (2:4-11)
 - d. These capture only the scope of this present life between **birth** and **death**.
6. (v.2:12-17) **Realization #1**: If the same fate awaits everyone, then the logical inference is there must be something **greater** at work than just the pursuits of this **life**.
7. (v.2:18-23) **Realization #2**: There is no earthly **peace** due to the constant striving for personal **results** or the **worries** for the next generation.
8. (v.2:24-26) **Realization #3**: The pursuits of this life are different for those who **embrace** God’s Word and ways versus those who **do not**.
9. **Overall Summary**: Ecclesiastes does not illuminate what is taking place in **heaven**, but limiting the discussion to what occurs “**under the sun**”.