

# Front Range Bible Institute

OTE 711 Ecclesiastes Syllabus

Professor Timothy L. Dane

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### I. Scope of the course

This course is a class for a study in the exposition of the Book of Ecclesiastes with primary study being made in the English text. This course will also involve some interaction with the Hebrew language, but a prior knowledge of Hebrew will not be necessary. The course will center on the study of Ecclesiastes by looking at the specific statements and various themes that Solomon uses to teach God's people about the wisdom of God and how these doctrines applied in Solomon's own time, as well as how they apply in our own day as well.

### II. Objectives of the course

- As a result of this course, the student should be able to do the following:
  1. Have a knowledge of the authorship and historical context of Ecclesiastes as well as the main doctrines of the book, including both the main purposes as well as the best interpretation of various challenging passages throughout.
  2. Know the contents of the book and understand its key doctrines.
  3. Articulate the structure of the book by producing an outline that gives an explanation of the major flow.
  4. Become familiar enough with the epistle as a whole, as well as its individual sections, that the student will be well positioned for teaching this book using the notes provided by the professor.

### III. Textbooks and materials for the course: Each student must obtain the following materials:

1. Longman, Tremper III. *The Book of Ecclesiastes*. The NICOT series. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans. 1998.
2. Kaiser, Walter. *Ecclesiastes*. The Everyman's Bible Commentary. Chicago: Moody. 1979.
3. Exposition of Ecclesiastes notes by Tim Dane
4. Exposition of Ecclesiastes lectures by Tim Dane (CD)

IV. Requirements for the course

1. Read through Ecclesiastes five times using a New American Standard translation and a second translation of your choice.
2. Read through the assigned commentaries in their entirety.
3. Listen to each of the taped (CD) messages.
4. Prepare a basic outline of the flow of the book.
5. Complete the exam

V. Grading for the course

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| 1. Reading Ecclesiastes five times               | 20% |
| 2. Reading Kaiser commentary                     | 20% |
| 3. Listen to taped lectures                      | 20% |
| 4. Exam  | 20% |
| 5. Annotated outline of the main flow and themes | 10% |

VI. Exam

Professor Tim Dane

A. Multiple choice (**six points each**)

1. Who are the possible authors of this book based on verse 1?  
(**choose one**)
  1. Saul
  2. David
  - 3. Solomon**
  4. Rehoboam
  5. Asa
2. What following definitions can fit the Hebrew word hebel (“vanity”) at various times in Ecclesiastes (among other ways, too)?
  1. Vanity
  2. Futility
  3. Hard to understand
  4. Meaningless
  5. Fleeting
  6. **Choices:**
    - a. “1” only
    - b. All of the above
    - c. “1” “2” and “4”
    - d. “1” “2” “4” and “5”**
3. The purpose of vv. 3:1-11 is as follows (**choose one**)
  1. These verses teach us that we need to be very discerning about what decisions to make and when to make them.
  2. These verses teach us that it is very important to seek wise counsel when faced with difficult choices.
  - 3. These verses teach us that God is sovereign and that we need to trust Him.**
  4. These verses teach us that a cursed world has left all things in a situation where chaos rules and it simply is something that we need to accept.
4. There is a certain refrain that we find in 2:24-26; 3:12, 22; 5:18-20; 8:15; 9:7-9. The key idea we should learn from this refrain is as follows (**choose one**).
  1. A very important part of biblical success is to enjoy pleasure.
  - 2. A very important part of biblical success is to enjoy God’s gifts with thankfulness and in moderation.**
  3. A very important part of biblical success is to spend our income as we earn it since we cannot take it with us and we do not know what tomorrow will bring.
  4. A very important part of success is the sense of satisfaction and self esteem that comes when we have worked very hard and can then be proud of our accomplishments.

5. Solomon's point in 6:1-7 is this (**choose one**):
  1. We should spend our money before we die.
  2. We should not leave our money to our children because it may cause them to become irresponsible.
  3. You need to be careful about spending too much money or else you might run out before you die.
  4. **It is a mark of God's grace in a person's life that he would not only have wealth, but enjoy it, too.**
6. The point of 7:2 is this:
  1. God is showing us that crying is therapeutic for the soul, but laughter and rejoicing really is not that helpful.
  2. **Something like a funeral helps men to think about ultimate realities.**
7. The point of 7:15-18 (even through 22) is this: (**choose one**)
  1. We need to recognize and accept the fact that in a cursed world, things aren't always going to be the way they should be or that we would want them to be.
  2. God does not want us to strive too much for personal holiness.
  3. It is not too crucial that we always try to do things right.
  4. A real and pure trust in God (fearing the Lord) really does help a person to accept the inconsistencies of life and failures of others, while still trying to strive for personal excellence in self and in others.
  5. **Choices:**
    - a. All of the above
    - b. "2" and "3"
    - c. "1" "3" and "4"
    - d. **"1" and "4"**
8. Psalm 73 is a good parallel to which verse in chapter 8:
  1. v. 11
  2. **v. 14**
  3. v. 15
9. Based on statements in chapters seven and nine, we can say that Solomon had this view of marriage:
  1. All women are evil and only lead to trouble.
  2. It is best for a man to stay single and serve God.
  3. Ungodly women can make your life miserable.
  4. Marriage can be a gift from God that makes life very enjoyable and pleasant.
  5. **Choices:**
    - a. All of the above.
    - b. "1" "3" and "4"
    - c. **"3" and "4"**
10. In 12:9-11 we see this doctrine:
  1. Divine omniscience

2. The majesty of man
- 3. The doctrine of inspiration with its instructive benefits**
4. The virtue of disciplined living

B. True/False (**two points each**)

1. Verse 1:2 defines for us the major purpose of the book. **T F**
2. Verse 1:3 defines for us the major theme and purpose of the book. **T F**
3. The point of verses 1:4-11 is that even though we live in a cursed world where there is difficulty in our labor, nevertheless we still need to do the very best we can. **T F**
4. According to statements in chapters one and two, the author of Ecclesiastes really abandoned all forms of restraint and control in his pursuit of wild living. **T F**
5. According to chapter two, the author discovered that the key to success in life is to be very diligent in your pursuits and do them with as much excellence as you can. **T F**
6. The point of 2:18-23 is that it really is not a good idea to give your children an inheritance since you do not know how they will use it. **T F**
7. The point of 3:14 is that we cannot change the way things are going to be, so it is useless to even try. **T F**
8. The key point in 4:4-8 is that we need to work hard, but we need to be careful about making sure that our work does not take an inordinate role in our lives. **T F**
9. According to 4:13-16, the key point of this text is that we should always be looking for ways to become better leaders so that people will not become disappointed in us and turn away. **T F**
10. Based on what we see in 5:8-9, we can say that probably the worst thing that can happen to a country is when the leadership is not one of high integrity. **T F**
11. From 5:10-17, we can see that hard work, discipline, and saving wealth for the future are very important aspects of life planning. **T F**
12. Based on the wisdom statements of chapters 9-10, we can say that if we want to guarantee success, we need to be wise. **T F**
13. Colossians 3:23 is a good parallel for 9:9. **T F**
14. Colossians 3:23 is a good parallel for 9:10. **T F**
15. Based on what we see in chapter 10, wise planning will keep us from problems. **T F**
16. Based on chapter 11:1-6, we can say that it is better not to take risks in life if we cannot be sure of the outcome. **T F**
17. According to 11:7-10, it is okay to sin a little bit in life when a person is young since a person only has one life to live. **T F**
18. According to 11:7-10, God has given men liberty and permission to enjoy life within the bounds of things that are not sinful. **T F**

19. According to the Bible (chapter 12:1-8), the latter years of life are to be anticipated with great joy due to the years of accumulated wisdom that one gains by walking with the Lord throughout life. **T F**
20. Above all, one thing that applies to every man is the fact that we will be judged by God for our lives. This is one absolute truth that applies to everyone and should have a major influence on how we think and live. **T F**

C. Multiple choice (**six points each**)

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