

Lecture 29 – Ecclesiastes, II

“Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher.

“Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.” Ecclesiastes 1:2

Key Terms

Vanity, application

Lecture Objectives

*Identify and discuss the implications of various translations for the word “vanity.”

*Identify some possible uses of the book of Ecclesiastes for evangelism and discipleship.

Preliminary Questions

*How might Ecclesiastes be used to encourage or challenge the ambitious executive, the depressed, the discouraged mother, the overbearing and authoritative father?

Ecclesiastes, II

See handout: A Thematic Overview of the Book of Ecclesiastes (Appendix 11)

* Translations of vanity

See handout: Ecclesiastes 3: Life’s (un)Certainties (Appendix 12)

Application of the book?

*Illustrations: Michael

*Reach people who are:

*“Climbing the ladder”

*Depressed

*Point of contact

Why is understanding the meaning of ‘vanity’ in Ecclesiastes important for understanding the book? What errors could result from a wrong understanding of this term?