

UNDER THE SUN

Joy, Sorrow, Vanity, and What Really Matters in Life

Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. -Ecclesiastes 12:13

“The Value of Diligent Persistence”

(Ecclesiastes 11:1-8)

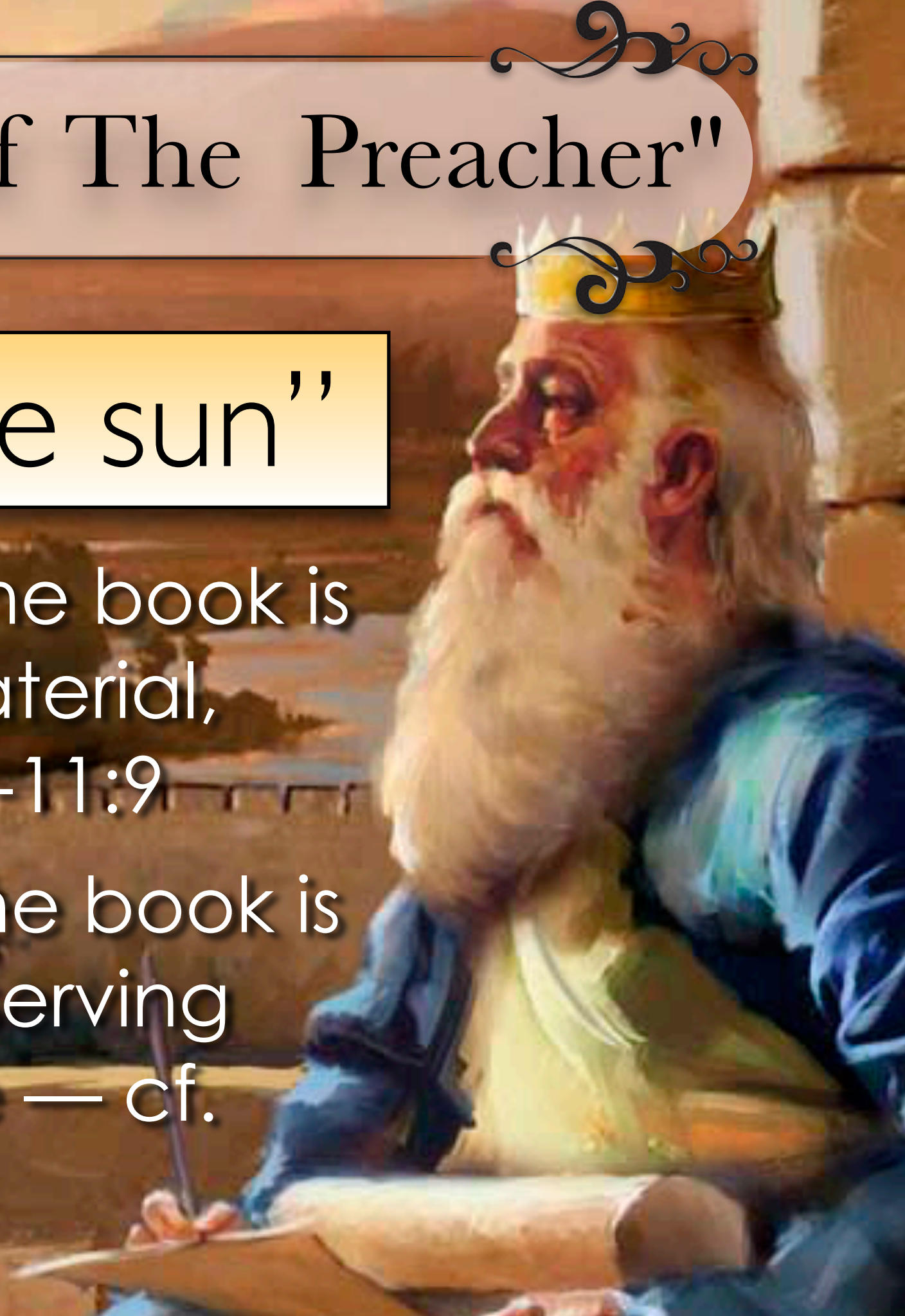
Ecclesiastes 11:6 (NKJV)

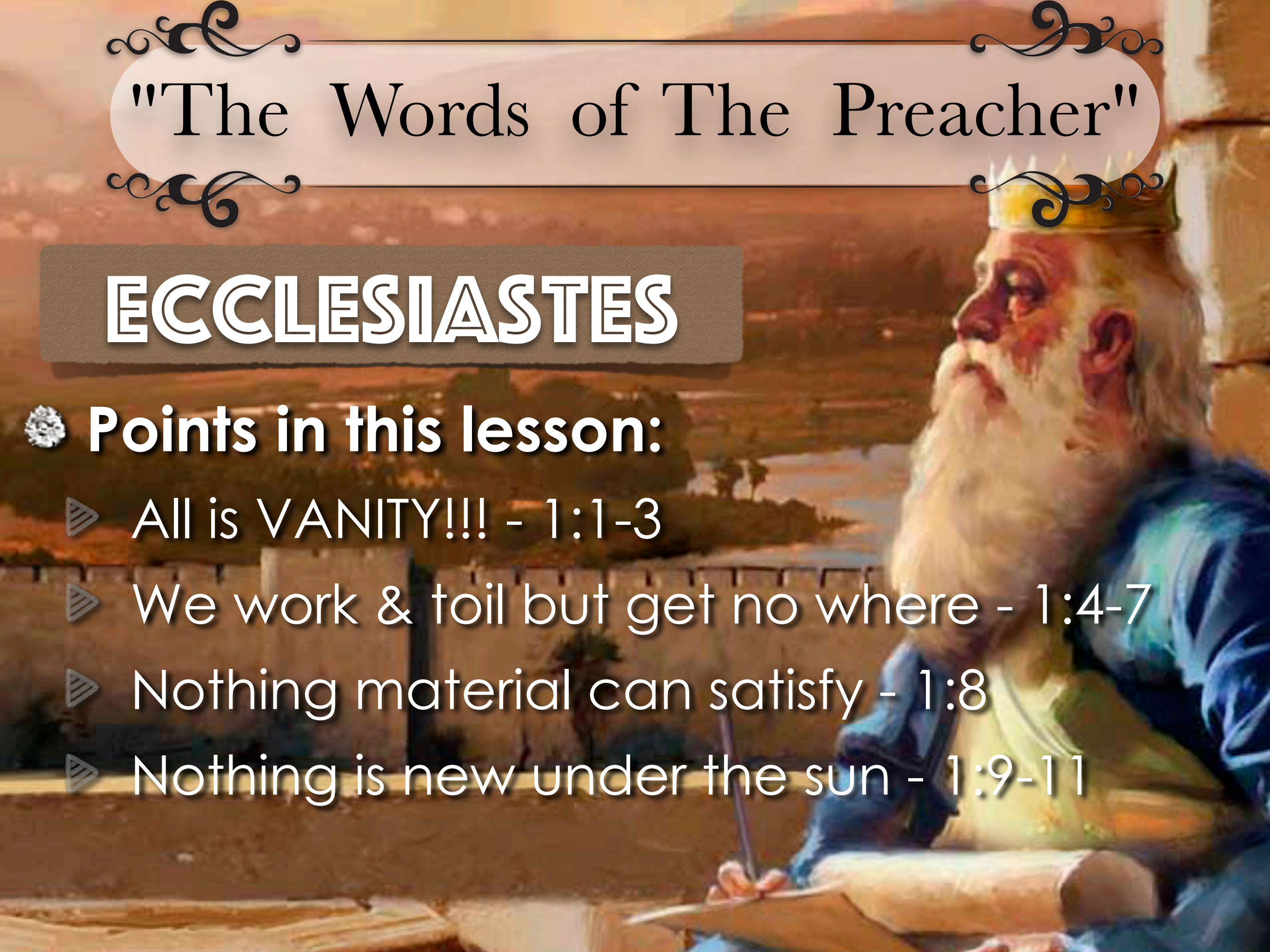
⁶ In the morning sow your seed, And in the evening do not withhold your hand; For you do not know which will prosper, Either this or that, Or whether both alike *will be* good.

"The Words of The Preacher"

"Life under the sun"

- The main focus of the book is the VANITY of of material, earthly things — 1:1-11:9
- The main point of the book is the importance of serving God throughout life — cf. 11:9-12:1, 13-14

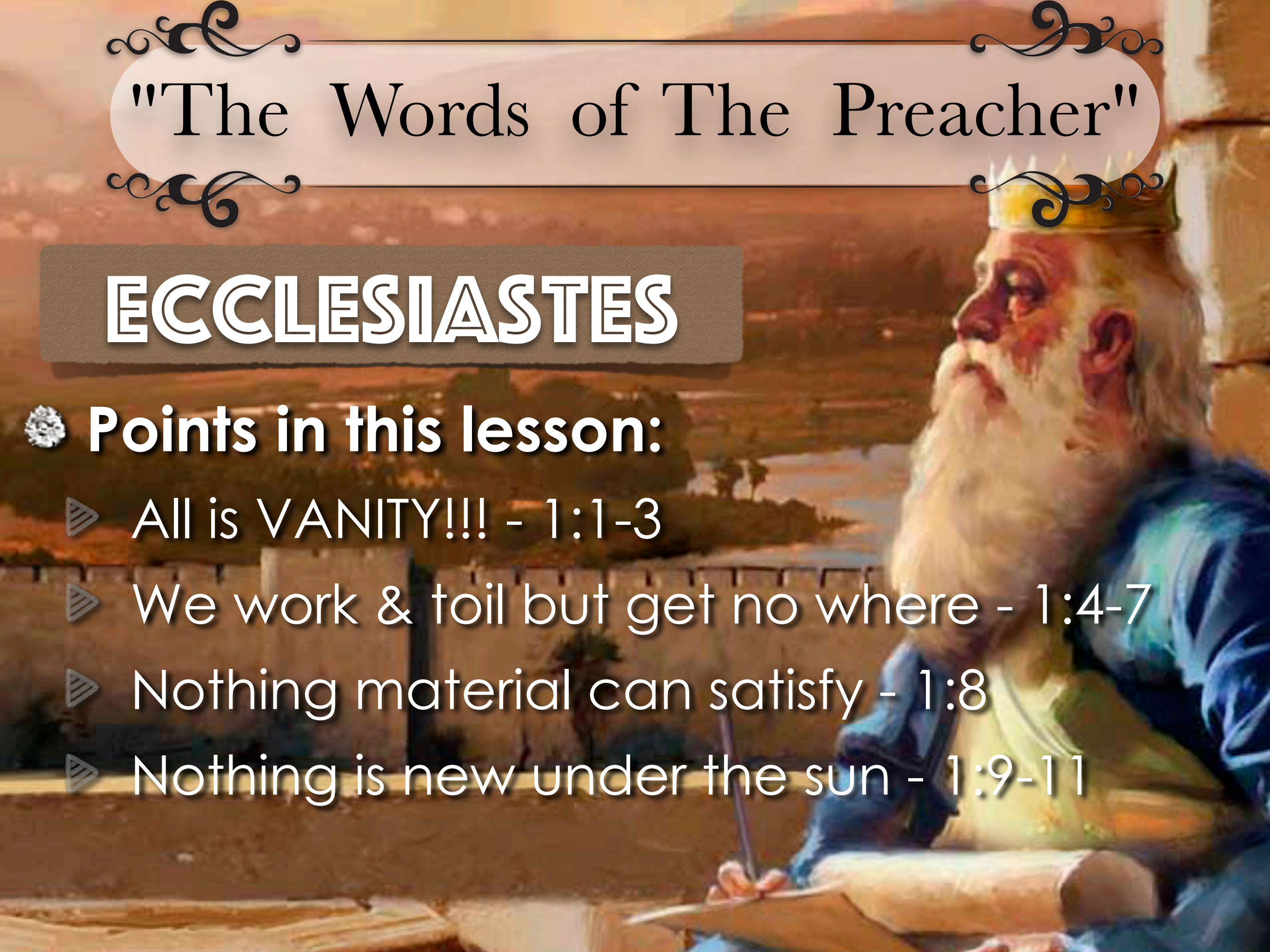




"The Words of The Preacher"

"Life under the sun"

- Life is frequently **disappointing, unfair, oppressive, tragic, and seemingly without point or meaning.**



"The Words of The Preacher"

"Life under the sun"

- BUT, we should NOT take the message of Ecclesiastes to be predominately negative!
- The wise man points us away from worthless things to the things in life that **REALLY MATTER!**

"The Words of The Preacher"

"Life under the sun"

- The last 2 chapters emphasize the need to **INVEST** our resources, time, efforts, & abilities toward that which will **LAST** instead of towards things that will **PERISH** — 12:7
- God will hold us all accountable to our **PURPOSE** in the end. — 12:13,14



Ecclesiastes 11:1–8 (NKJV)

¹ Cast your bread upon the waters, For you will find it after many days. ² Give a serving to seven, and also to eight, For you do not know what evil will be on the earth. ³ If the clouds are full of rain, They empty *themselves* upon the earth; And if a tree falls to the south or the north, In the place where the tree falls, there it shall lie. ⁴ He who observes the wind will not sow, And he who regards the clouds will not reap.

Ecclesiastes 11:1–8 (NKJV)

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Or how the bones *grow* in the womb of her who is
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“The Value of Diligent Persistence”

PERSISTENCE PAYS IN THE END (11:1-2)

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(NKJV)

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■ Various interpretations have been given:

- ▶ Sowing seed in wetlands -
- ▶ A merchant sending food abroad on ships -
- ▶ Be willing to take risks -
- ▶ Engaging in thankless tasks

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- ▶ The traditional Jewish view is one of charity, i.e., one's giving should be practiced freely without a view to personal return. -
- ▶ The general principle - we reap what we sow - (Deut. 15:10; Prov. 19:17; Mt 7:2; Luke 6:38; Mt. 10:42; 2 Cor. 9:8; Gal. 6:9, 10; Heb. 6:10).

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- There is **CERTAIN** reward for **ALL** who by faith persevere in doing good - 1 Cor 15:58:
- ▶ **Job** - James 5:11; Job 1:12,22; 2:10
- ▶ **Moses** - Heb. 11:24-26
- ▶ **Paul** - 2 Cor. 4:16-5:7
- ▶ **All faithful** - 2 Tim 4:8; Rev 14:13; Gal. 6:7-9

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■ “Give a serving to seven, & also to eight” ... Invest In Many / DIVERSIFY — (2)

- ▶ Do good for as many as you can / whenever you can / as often as you can — (Lk 6:30-35; 16:9; 1 Ti 6:18; Jam 4:17).
- ▶ This is practical wisdom, (Luke 16:9), for we do not know when we may need help from others — (Ga. 6:1. Ep. 5:16)

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■ Making Applications:

- ▶ Being actively involved in **GOOD WORKS** - Mt 5:13-16; Rom 12:1,2; 1 Pet 3:1-6
- ▶ Be **MERCIFUL & FORGIVING** - Luke 6:38; James 2:13
- ▶ **EVANGELISM — SOWING SEED —** Mk 16:15; Mt 13:18-23; 28:19; 1 Cor 3:5-8; 9:19-23
- ▶ **SERVICE** in the body — Rom 12:6,7; James 4:17

“The Value of Diligent Persistence”

DISCIPLINE NECESSARY TO SUCCESS (11:3-4)



Ecclesiastes 11:3-4 (NKJV)

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■ We CANNOT use our circumstances as excuses for NOT doing what we should

- ▶ Its going to rain / trees fall ...
- ▶ The future is uncertain & we may find ourselves HELPLESS against the forces of nature, BUT we cannot ALLOW uncertainty to rob us of our diligence & our engagement in the necessary activities of life! — Eccl. 9:10

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■ **We CANNOT use our circumstances as excuses for NOT doing what we should**

- ▶ We cannot allow our focus to be on the negatives of life - doing good in the face of adverse circumstances requires SELF-DISCIPLINE - Pr. 3:27; Mat 14:28-31
- ▶ Do not let APPARENT lack of success dissuade us from continued faithfulness - 1 Cor 3:5-8; James 4:17

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God will not accept our excuses!

Proverbs 20:4 (NKJV) ⁴ The lazy *man* will not plow because of winter; He will beg during harvest and *have* nothing.

Proverbs 22:13 (NKJV) ¹³ The lazy *man* says, “*There is a lion outside! I shall be slain in the streets!*”

Matthew 25:41 (NKJV) ⁴¹ “...‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:

“The Value of Diligent Persistence”

NEED FOR PERSISTENT FAITHFULNESS (11:5–6)



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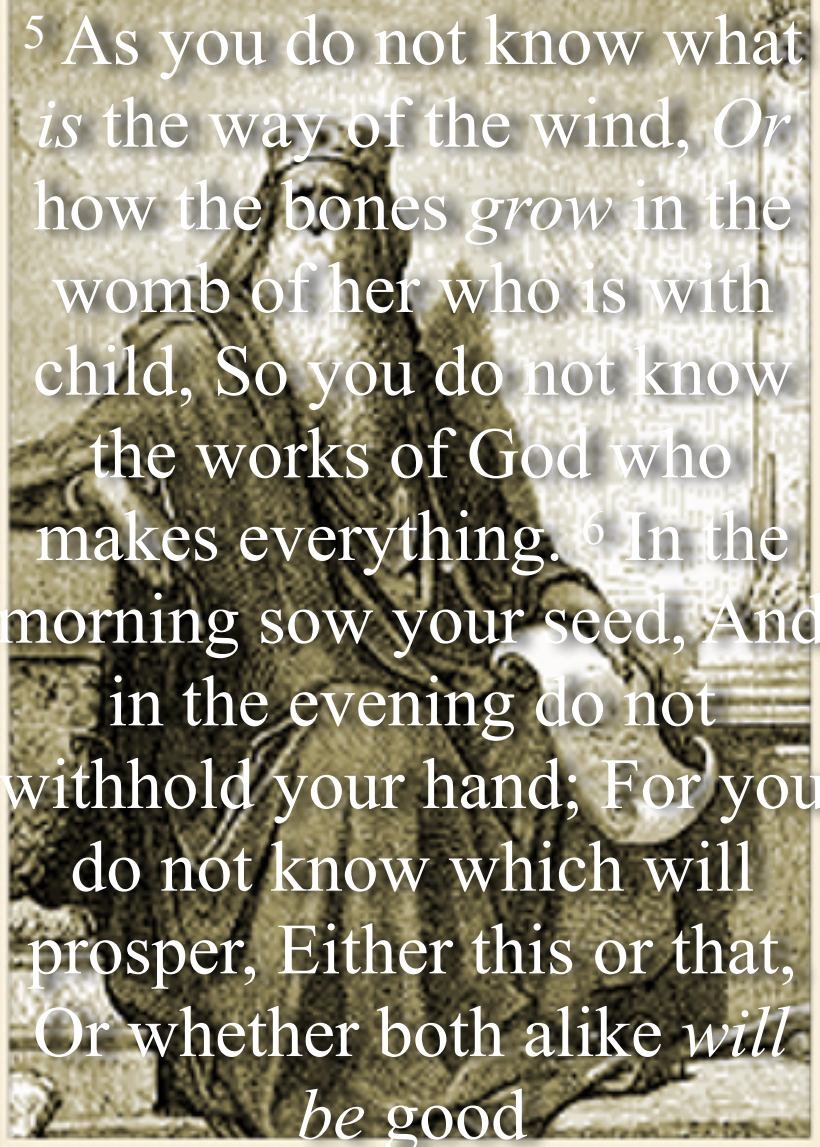
OBEDIENCE REGARDLESS ...

**OBEY IN FAITH
DESPITE Our
Ignorance of The
FUTURE or THE WHY
& HOW of GOD's
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■ OBEDIENCE REGARDLESS ...

- ▶ There are MANY things we CANNOT know — Deut 29:29; Rom 11:33-36; etc.
- ▶ If we REALLY TRUST God we will continue to obey His commands, even if and when we do NOT fully understand the why of it, or the how it will accomplish God's will - Josh. 6; 2 Ki 5; Gen 16-18; 22; Dan. 3:17,18; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Eph 5:19; etc.

“The Value of Diligent Persistence”

BE DILIGENT TODAY (11:7–8)

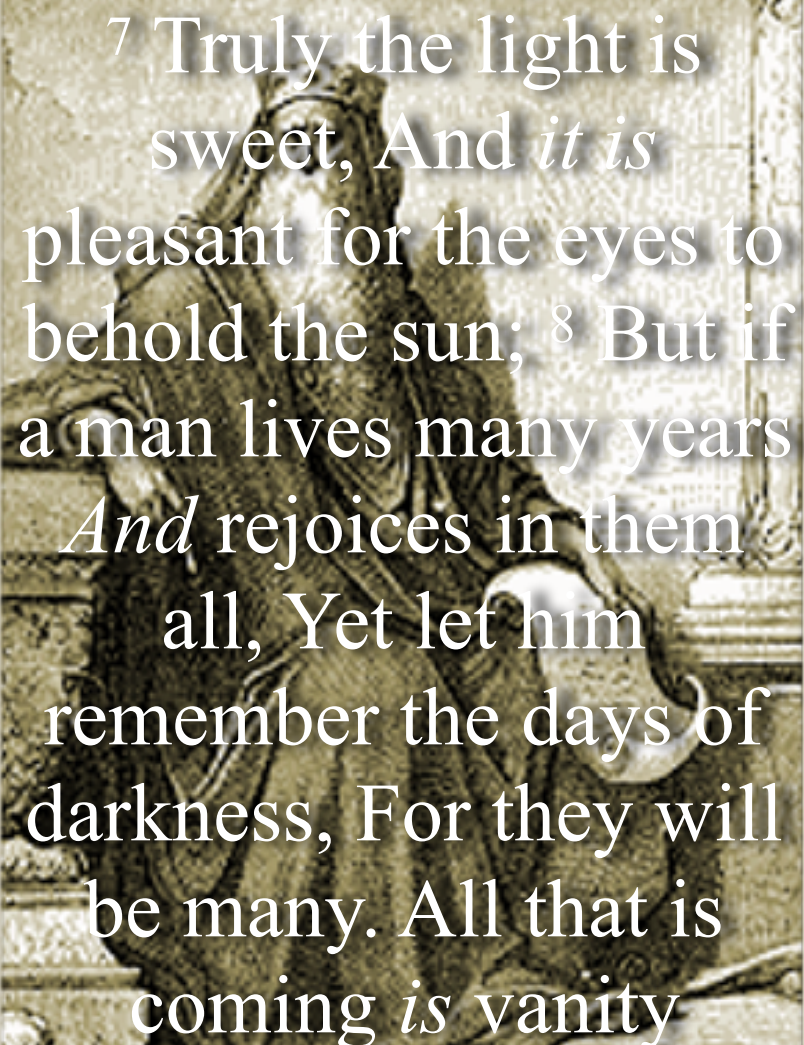


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“When one acts benevolently and works diligently as Koheleth has previously advised, life is worth living, and affords continuous enjoyment for the faithful worker. ...

“The thought that the night comes when no man can work (John 9:4) should stir mankind to make the best of every day of life, to be content and cheerful, to perform daily duties with the consciousness that this is the day of labor and joy.”

Smith, J. E. (1996). The wisdom literature and Psalms

“The Value of Diligent Persistence”

BE DILIGENT TODAY (11:7-8)

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■ **Today is the day of salvation — (2 Cor. 6:2; Heb. 3:7,13)**

- ▶ A believer is to enjoy their physical life (Ecc 2:24; 3:12,22; 5:18; 8:15).
- ▶ There is beauty in every stage of life - (Eccl 3:1-11)
- ▶ True joy can ONLY be realized by through faith & obedience- (Phili 4:6-13).

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- ▶ Daily faithfulness brings true fulfillment and joy to life — (Acts 16:34; Phil 4:6-13).
- ▶ We have today, we do not know what will be tomorrow — (Eccl. 9:10; Mat 6:33,34; Eph 5:16; James 4:13-17)
- ▶ One day, tomorrow will not come! — (Luke 12:13-21)

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“Life under the sun”

- **ARE WE INVESTING** our resources, time, efforts, & abilities **IN THINGS** which will **LAST ETERNALLY** or in things that will **PERISH**?

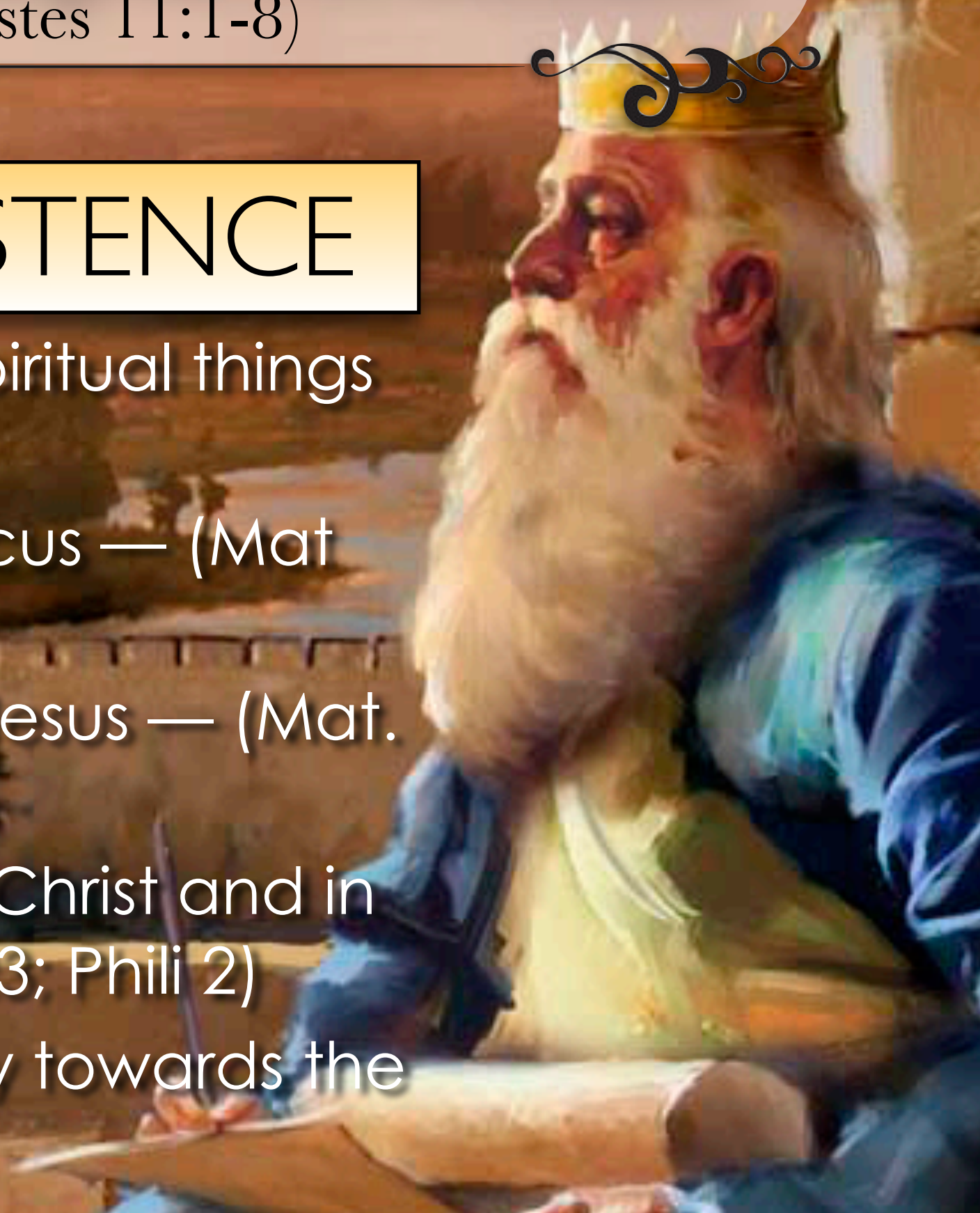


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DILIGENT PERSISTENCE

- Directing my values on spiritual things — Mat. 6:19-21,33
- Increasing my spiritual focus — (Mat 6:22,23; Col. 3:1,2)
- Increasing my loyalty to Jesus — (Mat. 6:24; Luke 9:23)
- Bearing fruit / growing in Christ and in His likeness — (Gal. 5:22,23; Phili 2)
- Press even more diligently towards the goal — (Phili 3:14)



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Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. -Ecclesiastes 12:13

“The Value of Diligent Persistence”

(Ecclesiastes 11:1-8)

Charts by Don McClain

Preached June 16, 2019

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2 PETER 1:5-11 (NKJV)

⁵ But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, ⁶ to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, ⁷ to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. ⁸ For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 PETER 1:5-11 (NKJV)

⁹ For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. ¹⁰ Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; ¹¹ for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.