

SERMON OUTLINE Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

There Is Nothing New Under the Sun

THERE IS NOTHING IS NEW UNDER THE SUN

Consider Your Life (3-4, 11)

Consider the World Around You (5-7)

Consider Your Own Body (8-10)

ABOVE THE SUN, EVERYTHING IS DIFFERENT

There Is Newness Above the Sun (Psalm 113:4-6; Isaiah 43:19; Jeremiah 31:31; Ezekiel 36:26; Luke 22:20; Revelation 21:1)

There is Grace in the Cycle (2 Peter 3:4; Colossians 3:23-24; Galatians 6:9; Hebrews 12:3; Acts 2:38-39; Psalm 19:1-2, 113:3, 104:3-4, 147:18; Lamentations 3:22-23)

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

The big idea of this passage is that there is great mystery in understanding how life can have real meaning when there is nothing new under the sun and everything comes back around again. Above the sun, though, we're able to see that God is making all things new and the rhythms of this world are profound means of grace. The main takeaway is to enter into the rhythms of God's design as the means of grace they are.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. Have you noticed the cyclical nature of life? If so, how has it landed on you?
3. Which of the Preacher's examples of cycle tend to be most worrisome for you: work, family/generations, the sun (days, weeks, months, years), the wind, the rivers, or the eyes and ears? Why?
4. Does your daily work tend to feel meaningful and fulfilling? Why/not?
5. Is it hard for you to get older? Why/not?
6. Had it ever occurred to you that you are always trying to see and hear new things, but are never filled/fulfilled?
7. Does it seem accurate to say that there is nothing new under the sun?
8. Can you describe why the Preacher's observations are true under the sun, but very different above the sun?
9. Where do you usually find the most grace in the cycle/rhythm created by God?
10. Where do you most need to grow in light of the things you learned in the passage and sermon?
11. In what way/s did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

12. Continue reading through Ecclesiastes.
13. Ask a non-Christian friend or neighbor to read Ecclesiastes with you and/or invite them to church to hear it preached.
14. Share the gospel with someone in order that they might experience new life in Jesus and escape the weariness of life.
15. Work at your work, whatever it is, as unto the Lord.
16. Have a quiet time each morning this week, seeking the promised new mercies of God in it.
17. Create something that celebrates the grace of God found in the cyclical/rhythmic nature of life.
18. Ask two different people in your family or DG (1) One thing they got from this sermon, and (2) How you can pray for them.
19. Pick one specific thing you mean to do differently as a result of the things you saw or heard in this text or sermon.

PRAYER POINTS

20. Adoration. Praise God for being above the sun. Praise God for being all wise (there is no mystery for God). Praise God for being the sovereign ruler of all. Praise God for never growing weary. Praise God for being eternally creative and new.
21. Confess. Confess any weariness that comes from living out of an under the sun perspective. Confess any ways you've been working for something other than the Lord. Confess any ways you've tried to make a kingdom for yourself. Confess any ways you've tried to find true joy and satisfaction exclusively under the sun.
22. Thanksgiving. Thank God for giving you His Word, His Son, and His Spirit. Thank God for the rhythm of life and all the grace that is in it. Thank God for His promise to make all things new. Thank God for revealing so much of Himself in His creation.
23. Supplication. Ask God to grant someone in your life an above the sun perspective. Ask God to help someone to escape the vanity of this life. Ask God to help us encourage one another at Grace Church.