

Seeking Lasting Comfort - Eccl 4:1

I was walking yesterday. In the midst of a warm, sun soaked day I grew saddened. I was not sad at first by where I was because what I saw was normal. There were stones with names on them with dates like 1867-1935. I grew increasingly disturbed with so much disturbed ground. Then I was confronted with a reality that I knew but became even more real. The separation of dates were not 60 years, 70 years, they were 16 years, 32 years. There was great discomfort because it is not supposed to be this way. There is no comfort just distraction. In locations all over the world people are wondering, is there any hope for comfort? 20 years ago ISIS began wreaking havoc throughout the Middle East. Insurgence groups are causing chaos in Mozambique, and the Republic of Congo plus 25 other nation, do not travel advisories because of extremist groups. People are fleeing for their lives. Is there any comfort? 25 tornados so far this year were EF 2 and higher, causing distress and destruction. Is there any comfort? People work hard to eke out a life and in a moment it is gone.

Hevel: Vapor, Mist, Absurdity

When there is no God beyond the sun all we have to make meaning of this world is what is under the sun. The teacher of Eccl. has chased, pleasure, projects, justice, wealth and wisdom. What kept haunting him were the reality of the dates on the stone.

Eccl 4, If there is nothing more than what is under the sun, life is Hevel
Wouldn't have been better to have never been born?
People distract by diving in to toil with both hands leaving regret
others just give up.

Eccl 4:5 Better one handful with tranquility than two with toil

Eccl 4:9-12 Life is much better with companionship

There is more than what is under the sun. There is a God who cares about what goes on under the sun He created for the God of those he loves.
Eccl 5: Remember who is God. Watch your words. Watch your step.

He came to his own John 1:11

He taught to give them hope under the sun Matt 5:4

He agonized when they rejected Matt 23:37

He forgave when tortured Lk 23:34

The disciples: Where is there any comfort? Any hope? Any purpose under the sun? Again death has won.

The Father breaths life into his son.

The Father roles the stone away

1Cor 15:55 "Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?"

Is there any lasting comfort?

The sting of death is comforted by the giver of life.

1Pt 2:24 He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed.

Matt 28:19-20 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Because of this hope we can live differently in this world that presents so many distractions.