

Questions On Ecclesiastes 4

1. Verse 1 continues the discussion of things done where? “Under” what?
 - a) Opposite his discussion of *pleasure* that we saw in chapter 2, what sad condition is discussed here (v. 1)
 - b) What did oppressed people *not have*?
 - c) What did the *oppressors* have on their side to enable them? (v. 1)
2. Remembering the proviso (*that Solomon is approaching this condition from a purely earthly an humanistic perspective*), what two states (conditions) would be better than living a life of mere affliction and oppression? (vs. 2-3)
3. How are successful people sometimes viewed by their neighbors? How did Solomon describe this outcome? (v. 4)
 - a) How is “envy” classified in Galatians 5:19-*21*?
4. Though profit and success may generate resentment, what other undesirable consequence comes from idleness? (v. 5)
5. Barnes suggests two possible perspectives on verse 6: Either from the fool’s perspective or from Solomon’s. If the fool, then it would be sarcastic. If from Solomon’s perspective, what point is being made?
6. What vanity (vain circumstance) is discussed in verses 7 and 8?

7. What three illustrations are given in verses 9-12 showing that “two are better than one?”
 - a) While brethren, friends and family can serve this purpose, what relationship satisfies the need of companionship according to Genesis 2:18-20, 24; Ecclesiastes 9:9?
8. Who is “better” according to verse 13? Why?
9. Several different views are advanced on the identities of the kings of verses 13-16. Some believe the old king to be Saul and the youth to be David. Some believe the old king to be Solomon and Jeroboam and Rehoboam to be represented by the youth. Regardless of identity, what did the “youth” of verse 13 accomplish by his *wisdom*? (v. 14)
 - a) How was he received by those of his generation? (vs. 15-16a)
 - b) How was he viewed by those “later” (of the next generation)? (16)