

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12–14; 2:18–26

²Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher,
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

...

¹²I the Preacher have been king
over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³And I applied
my heart to seek and to search out by
wisdom all that is done under heaven. It
is an unhappy business that God has
given to the children of man to be busy
with. ¹⁴I have seen everything that is
done under the sun, and behold, all is
vanity and a striving after wind. . . .

¹⁸I hated all my toil in which I toil
under the sun, seeing that I must leave it
to the man who will come after me,
¹⁹and who knows whether he will be
wise or a fool? Yet he will be master of
all for which I toiled and used my
wisdom under the sun. This also is
vanity. ²⁰So I turned about and gave my
heart up to despair over all the toil of my
labors under the sun, ²¹because
sometimes a person who has toiled with
wisdom and knowledge and skill must
leave everything to be enjoyed by
someone who did not toil for it. This
also is vanity and a great evil. ²²What
has a man from all the toil and striving
of heart with which he toils beneath the
sun? ²³For all his days are full of sorrow,
and his work is a vexation. Even in the
night his heart does not rest. This also is
vanity.

²⁴There is nothing better for a
person than that he should eat and drink

and find enjoyment in his toil. This also,
I saw, is from the hand of God, ²⁵for
apart from him who can eat or who can
have enjoyment? ²⁶For to the one who
pleases him God has given wisdom and
knowledge and joy, but to the sinner he
has given the business of gathering and
collecting, only to give to one who
pleases God. This also is vanity and a
striving after wind.

**Psalm 100**

¹Make a joyful noise to the Lord, |
all the earth!*

²Serve the Lord with gladness!
Come into his presence
with | singing!

³Know that the Lord, | he is God!*
It is he who made us,
and we are his;
we are his people,
and the sheep of his | pasture.

⁴Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his | courts with praise!*
Give thanks to him; |
bless his name!

⁵For the Lord is good;
his steadfast love endures for- | ever,*
and his faithfulness
to all gener- | ations.

Colossians 3:1–11

¹If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

⁵Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶On account of these the wrath of God is coming. ⁷In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. ¹¹Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

Luke 12:13–21

¹³Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus], "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." ¹⁴But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." ¹⁶And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, ¹⁷and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' ¹⁸And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' ²⁰But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."