

# ALL THE LIVING

## ECCLESIASTES 4

Text: Ecc. 4:15

(Ecclesiastes 4:15) "I considered all the living which walk under the sun, with the second child that shall stand up in his stead."

Introduction:

Solomon is still considering life. He has observed many things in continues these observations in this chapter.

Notice

### **1. CONSIDERATION**

This word is used three times in this short chapter of 16 verses.

(Ecclesiastes 4:1-4) "So I returned, and considered all the oppressions that are done under the sun: and behold the tears of such as were oppressed, and they had no comforter; and on the side of their oppressors there was power; but they had no comforter. {2}

Wherefore I praised the dead which are already dead more than the living which are yet alive. {3} Yea, better

is he than both they, which hath not yet been, who hath not seen the evil work that is done under the sun. {4} Again, I considered all travail, and every right work, that for this a man is envied of his neighbour. This is also vanity and vexation of spirit."

(Ecclesiastes 4:15) "I considered all the living which walk under the sun, with the second child that shall stand up in his stead."

A. The Oppression (v. 1-3)

1. Solomon is troubled by the conditions of the oppressed.

a. They had no comforter

B. The Travail (work) (v. 4-6)

1. Those who are successful are often the recipients of ill will.

2. Those that excel in virtue will always be an eye sore to those that exceed in vice, which should not discourage us from any right work, but drive us to expect the praise of it, not from men, but from God.

a. We should never count on satisfaction and happiness in the creature, but rather from the Creator.

3. The fool is the one who goes about his work as if his hands were muffled or folded together.

a. Because he refuses to labor, he eats his own flesh.

### C. Self Centered (v. 8)

(Ecclesiastes 4:8) "There is one alone, and there is not a second; yea, he hath neither child nor brother: yet is there no end of all his labour; neither is his eye satisfied with riches; neither saith he, For whom do I labour, and bereave my soul of good? This is also vanity, yea, it is a sore travail."

1. Never thinks he has enough.

## 2. CERTAINTY (V. 9)

A. Two are better than one

1. Mixed messages today are given concerning marriage & the home

2. One can be an uplifter

3. Provides strength

### **3. CAUTION (v. 13-16)**

A. Success is temporary