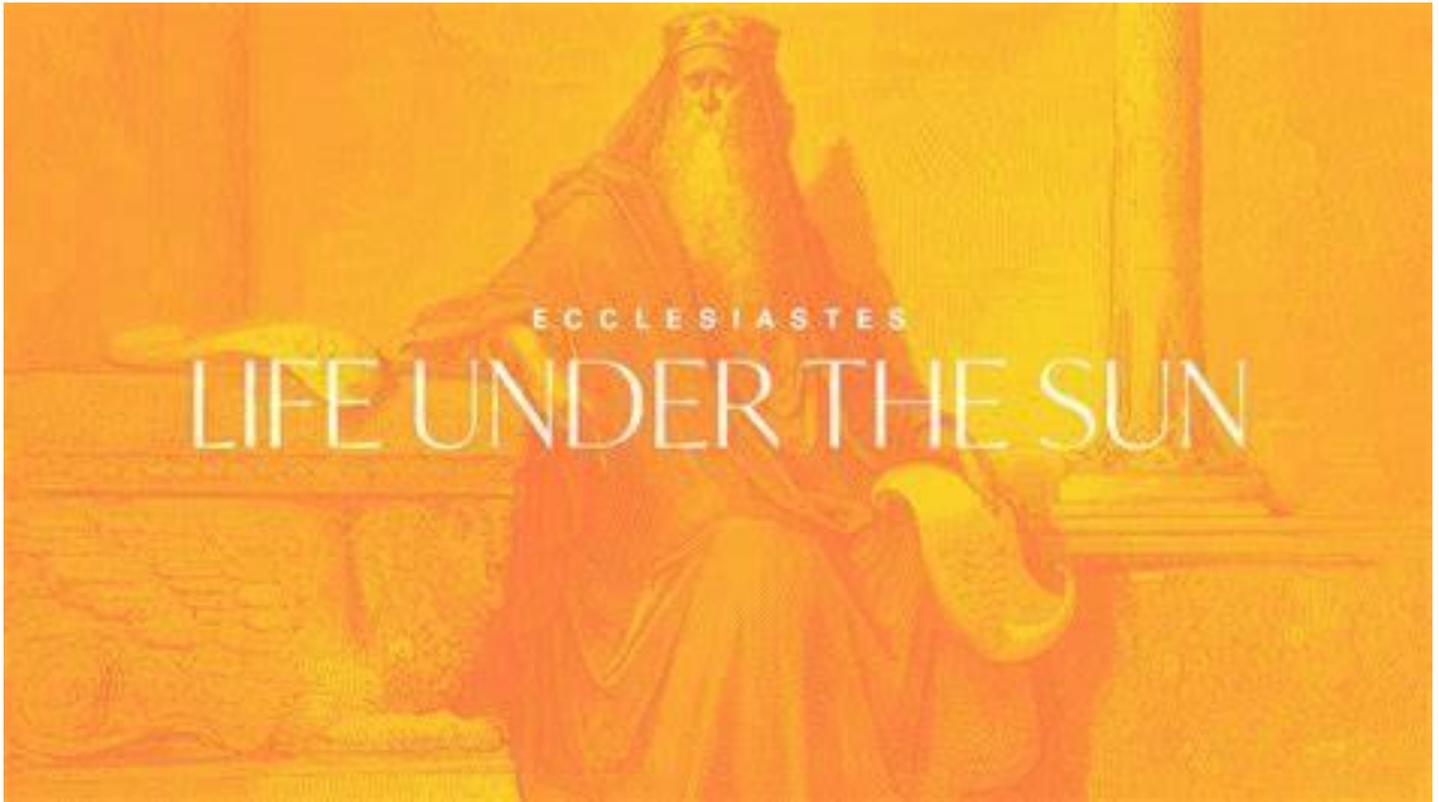


Life Under The Sun – Ecclesiastes

Introduction - Lesson 1



“What profit has a man from all his labor in which he toils under the sun?” Ecclesiastes 1:3

How many times does Solomon use the phrase “under the sun” in Ecclesiastes?

25

“I have _____ that are done under the sun; and indeed, all *is* vanity and grasping for the wind.”
Ecclesiastes 1:14

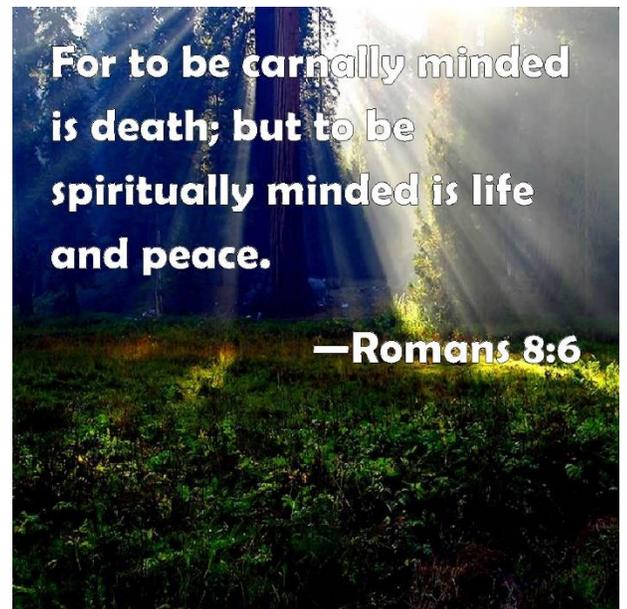
seen all the works

What does the phrase "under the sun" mean?

“Under the sun” means living your life without God and without God’s Word

Circle eight phrases in Romans 8:1-9 that are like living “under the sun”

¹ *There is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not **walk according to the flesh**, but according to the Spirit. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from **the law of sin and death**. ³ For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God *did* by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who **live according to the flesh** **set their minds on the things of the flesh**, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For **to be carnally minded** *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. ⁷ Because **the carnal mind** *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. ⁸ So then, those who are **in the flesh** cannot please God. ⁹ But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone **does not have the Spirit** of Christ, he is not His. **Romans 8:1-9**



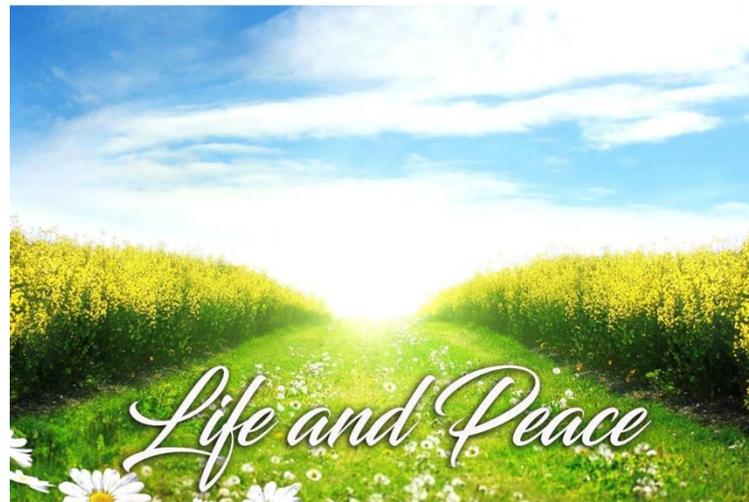
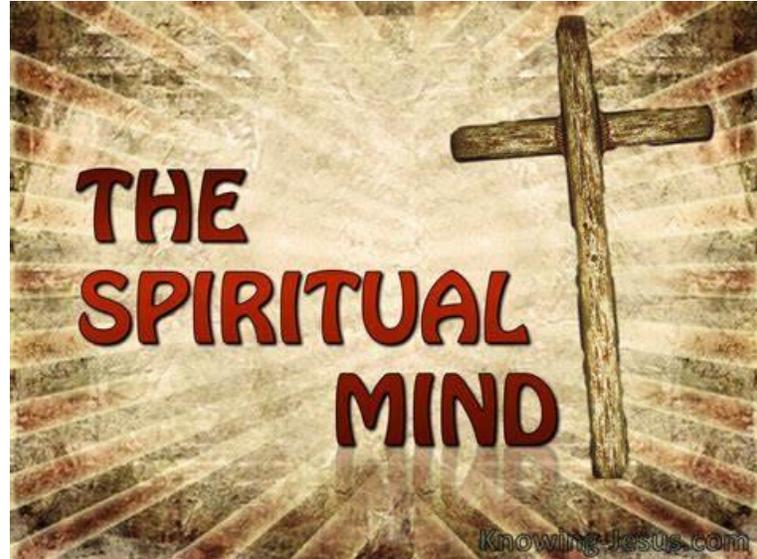
Circle three phrases in Ephesians 2:1-3 that are like living “under the sun”

¹ And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once **walked according to the course of this world**, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³ among whom also we all once **conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh**, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were **by nature children of wrath**, just as the others. **Ephesians 2:1-3**

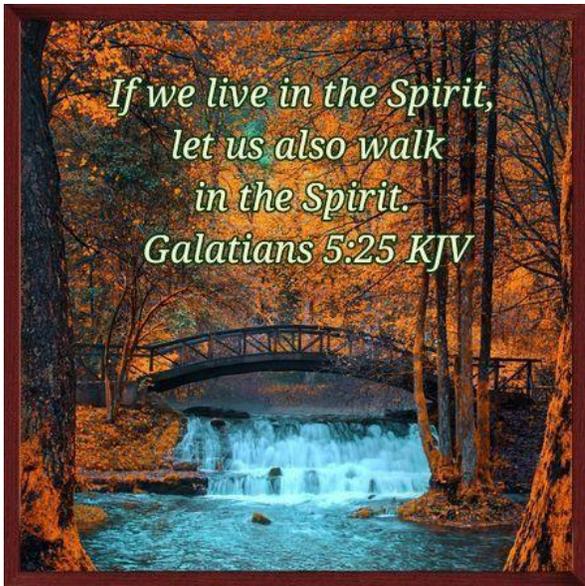
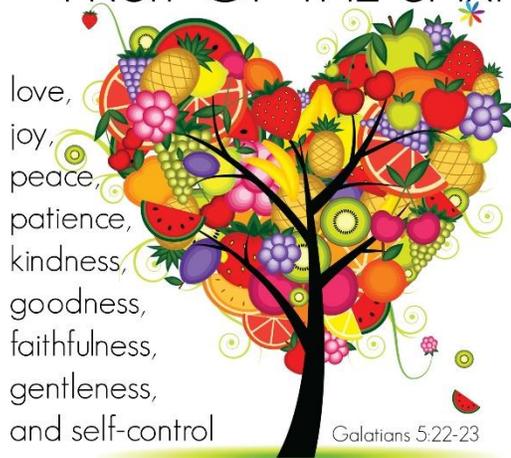
Circle seven phrases in Romans 8:1-9 that are opposite of living “under the sun”

¹ *There is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are **in Christ Jesus**, who **do not walk according to the flesh**, but **according to the Spirit**. ²

For the **law of the Spirit** of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. ³ For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God *did* by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live according to the Spirit*, the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be **spiritually minded is life and peace**. ⁷ Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. ⁸ So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ But you are not in the flesh but **in the Spirit**, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. **Romans 8:1-9**



FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT



Circle six phrases in Galatians 5:16-25 that are opposite of living “under the sun”

¹⁶ I say then: **Walk in the Spirit**, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

¹⁸ But if you are **led by the Spirit**, you are not under the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹ envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. ²⁴ And those *who are* Christ's have **crucified the flesh with its passions and desires**. ²⁵ If we **live in the Spirit**, let us also **walk in the Spirit**. **Galatians 5:16-25**

“No Profit” (a Rip Off) living “under the sun” (without God)

“What profit has a man from all his labor in which he toils under the sun?” Ecclesiastes 1:3

“Then I looked on all . . . *There was* no profit under the sun.” Ecclesiastes 2:11

What does Solomon’s phrase, “no profit under the sun.” mean to you and me?

That all the pleasures “under the sun” (in this world) are not worth it and will not satisfy us!

How does Matthew 16:26 apply to Solomon and Ecclesiastes?

“For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” Matthew 16:26

In Ecclesiastes, Solomon is telling us that he gained the whole world, and it was “vanity” (useless).



The following Scriptures explain how the world was not worth it to Solomon:

¹ The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem. ² "Vanity of vanities," says the Preacher; "Vanity of vanities, all *is* vanity." ³ What _____ has a man from all his labor In which he toils _____? Ecclesiastes 1:1-3

profit under the

¹² I, the Preacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³ And I set my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all that is done under heaven; this burdensome task God has given to the sons of man, by which they may be exercised. ¹⁴ I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and indeed, _____ and grasping for the wind. Ecclesiastes 1:12-14

all is vanity

¹⁶ I communed with my heart, saying, "Look, I have attained greatness, and have gained more wisdom than all who were before me in Jerusalem. My heart has understood great wisdom and knowledge." ¹⁷ And I set my heart to know wisdom and to know madness and folly. I perceived that this also is _____ . Ecclesiastes 1:16-17

grasping for the wind

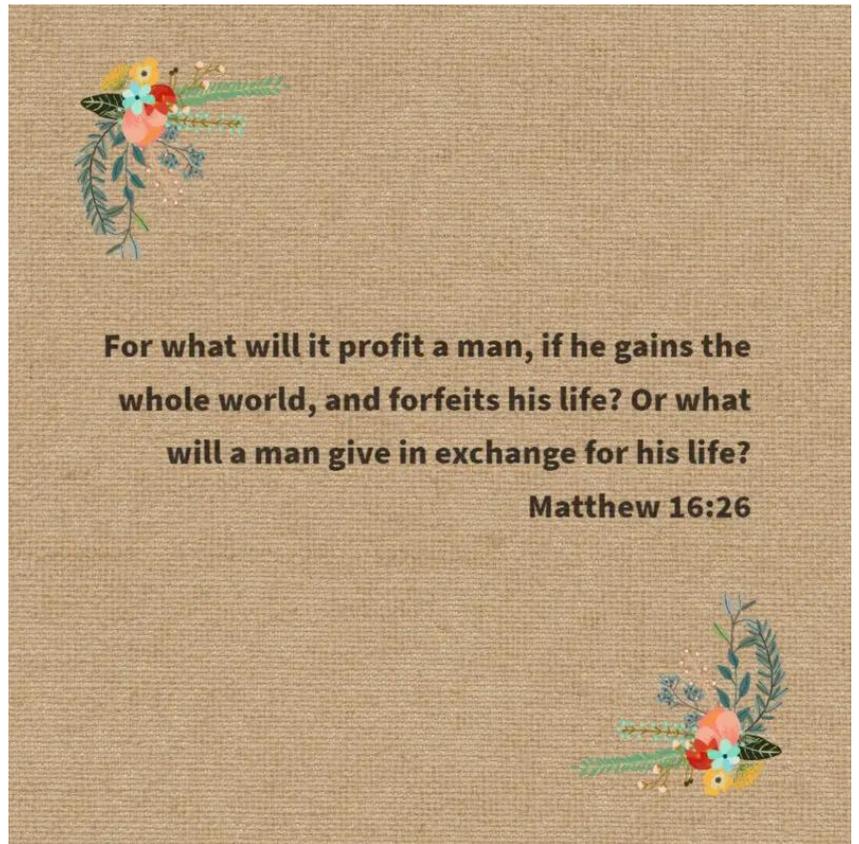
“For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” **Matthew 16:26**

In Matthew 16:26, how does the phrase “gains the whole world” apply to you and me?

We were trying to gain pleasures through drugs, fornication, etc.

In Matthew 16:26, what is your and my answer to “What will a man give in exchange for his soul?”

We do not want to exchange our souls for pleasures through drugs, sex, etc



²⁴ Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. ²⁵ For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. ²⁶ For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" **Matthew 16:24-26**

In Matthew 16:25, what does the phrase “whoever desires to save his life will lose it” mean to you and me?

If we “save” (choose) “life” in this world (pleasures), we “lose” (forfeit) “life” (our souls) in eternity).

In Matthew 16:25, what does the phrase “whoever loses his life for My sake will find it” mean to you and me?

If we deny (“loses”) “life” (pleasures in this life)) for Jesus sake, we will “find it” (gain) eternal life.

