

What Can You Count On?  
Ecclesiastes 7:15-29  
Pastor Nathan Hogan



## Growth Group Questions

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1. Have there been times in your life when you have felt like there are very few things you can count on? When?
2. Sometimes the righteous perish and the wicked prosper. What biblical examples display this reality? What examples from your experience display this reality?
3. In this world that seems so unreliable what are some of the things the author of Ecclesiastes tells us we can count on? Which of these impacts you the most? Why?
4. What does the author mean in v. 16 when he tells us not to be overly righteous? How does this text help us to see that our own righteousness is not something that we can ultimately rely upon?
5. Why is the fear of the Lord vital in this uncertain world?

6. What things in your life (other than the Lord) are you most tempted to count on? Why? How does this text help you put these things in their proper place?

### **Next Week: Ecclesiastes 8:1-17**

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#### Matthew 9:9-13

As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he rose and followed him. And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” But when he heard it, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

#### Philippians 3:7-11

But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.