

June 20 Answers

- 1) More of Solomon's reflections. Mankind's failure to find satisfaction in life "under the sun" is actually a gift of love, for if men could find meaning apart from God, what hope would there be for their souls? God made sure that true happiness and fulfillment are found only in Him, and God calls everyone to come and find contentment in His love. Solomon observed that many who work hard are deprived of the benefits of their labor, while others receive the benefits but are unable to find contentment in their wealth. "This also is vanity and a striving after wind" (Ecc 4:16). Yet Solomon discovered something that he described as "the gift of God": the ability to receive the fruit of your labor *and* to enjoy that fruit in peace and happiness. This teaches us that God is the one who gives us the ability to find satisfaction in our work. If we put God first and labor faithfully where He puts us, God will help us find contentment in our work. It also shows us that within the context of a right relationship with God, there is great value in even the most ordinary tasks of life. When our hearts are united with the source of all meaning and value, then our personal efforts and endeavors also have meaning and value!