I. Style of Solomon’s Autobiography

 A. Ecclesiastes is an autobiography written in a poetic style.

 B. The content centers around the word, “Hevel,” which means Vain or Futile.

 C. The work is a description of a person of faith “pursuing wisdom.”

 D. Premise: Believing in God is not a cure for Hevel.

II. Chapter Three: A Time for Everything

 A. A time to be born/to die

 B. To plant/to uproot

 C. To kill/heal

 D. To tear down/build

 E. To weep/laugh

 F. To mourn/dance

 G. To scatter stones/gather them

 H. To embrace/refrain

 I. To search/give up

 J. To keep/throw away

 K. To tear/mend

 L. To be silent/speak

 M. To love/hate

 N. Of war/peace

III. The Echoes of the Gospel Infiltrate Ecclesiastes

 A. The Beatitudes: Matthew 5 – “How happy (blessed) are …”

 1. The Poor in spirit/kingdom of heaven

 2. Those who mourn/comforted

 3. The meek/inherit the earth

 4. Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness/filled

 5. The merciful/shown mercy

 6. The pure in heart/see God

 7. The peacemakers/sons of God

 8. Those who are persecuted because of righteousness/heaven

 9. Those insulted and slandered because of Jesus/reward in heaven.

 B. Application of the Beatitudes:

 1. Rejoice and be glad – great is your reward in heaven.

 2. They persecuted the prophets before you.

 C. Matthew 11:16 – 19

 1. Jesus proclaims the “vanity” of trying to please others and prove himself.

 2. His application – Wisdom is proved by her actions.

 3. Thus, echoes of Ecclesiastes are heard in the Gospels.

IV. The Echoes of the Epistles Infiltrate Ecclesiastes

 A. 2 Corinthians 4:8ff, “We are…”

 1. Hard pressed on every side/but not crushed

 2. Perplexed/but not in despair

 3. Persecuted/but not abandoned

 4. Struck down/but not destroyed

 5. Carrying around in our body the death of Jesus/Jesus’ life is revealed

 B. Application: Don’t lose heart – it’s transient.