

Charlie Brown Meets Jesus Christ

Charlie Brown has been made famous in the classic comic strip by Charles Schultz. This elementary aged round-headed boy struggles with flying his kite, kicking the football, and playing baseball. He also wrestles with the big questions of life and even seeks psychiatric counseling from Lucy.

Even at Christmas one year his friend Linus quoted Luke chapter 2 and Charlie Brown seems to “get” what the true meaning of Christmas really is. This revelation changes him in that particular season of his life, but the next television special finds Charlie Brown acting the same “usual” way.

As you watched or read about him, have you ever felt any sympathy? I recently found myself asking “what would happen if he met Jesus Christ?”

Let’s walk through the book of Ecclesiastes in the Bible and help Charlie Brown meet the Lord.

Ecclesiastes chapter One - *Charlie Brown wants to know what is the meaning of Life.*

“Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all *is* vanity.” (*Ecclesiastes 1:2*)

Everything seems to be a circle; the seasons change; children are born and people grow old. Maybe with enough education and knowledge I can escape this rut? He discovers “that this also is vexation of spirit. For in much wisdom *is* much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow.” (*Ecclesiastes 1:17-18*)

Ecclesiastes chapter Two - *Charlie Brown looks to pleasure, education, and work for fulfillment.*

“I said in mine heart, Go to now, I will prove thee with mirth, therefore enjoy pleasure: and, behold, this also *is* vanity. I made me great works; I builded me houses; I planted me vineyards:” (*Ecclesiastes 2:1,4*) His findings- “Then said I in my heart, as it happeneth to the fool, so it happeneth even to me; and why was I then more wise? Then I said in my heart, that this also *is* vanity. For *God* giveth to a man that *is* good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy: but to the sinner he giveth travail, to gather and to heap up, that he may give to *him that is* good before God. This also *is* vanity and vexation of spirit.” (*Ecclesiastes 2:15,26*)

Ecclesiastes chapter Three - *Charlie Brown looks to the cycle of nature and life.*

“To every *thing there is* a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die;” (*Ecclesiastes 3:1-2*) His conclusion is “For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all *is* vanity. All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.” (*Ecclesiastes 3:19-20*)

Ecclesiastes chapter Four - *Charlie Brown looks to the leaders throughout history.*

“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.” (*Ecclesiastes 4:1*) His discovery is typical...”I considered all the living which walk under the sun, with the second child

that shall stand up in his stead. *There is no end of all the people, even of all that have been before them: they also that come after shall not rejoice in him. Surely this also is vanity and vexation of spirit.*" (*Ecclesiastes 4:15-16*)

Ecclesiastes chapter Five - *Charlie Brown tries religion and riches.*

"Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil. ²Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter *any* thing before God: for God *is* in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few. He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this *is* also vanity." (*Ecclesiastes 5:1-2,10*) He finds partial encouragement here, "Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; this *is* the gift of God." (*Ecclesiastes 5:19*)

Ecclesiastes chapter Six - *Charlie Brown tries having a family and children.*

"If a man beget an hundred *children*, and live many years, so that the days of his years be many, and his soul be not filled with good, and also *that* he have no burial; I say, *that* an untimely birth *is* better than he." (*Ecclesiastes 6:3*) He comes up empty- "Seeing there be many things that increase vanity, what *is* man the better? For who knoweth what *is* good for man in *this* life, all the days of his vain life which he spendeth as a shadow? for who can tell a man what shall be after him under the sun?" (*Ecclesiastes 6:11-12*)

Ecclesiastes chapter Seven - *Charlie Brown tries to establish a great name and looks to his inheritance.*

"A good name *is* better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth. Wisdom *is* good with an inheritance: and *by it there is* profit to them that see the sun." (*Ecclesiastes 7:1,11*) He discovered that the legacy did not bring what he sought- "All *things* have I seen in the days of my vanity: there is a just *man* that perisheth in his righteousness, and there is a wicked *man* that prolongeth *his life* in his wickedness." (*Ecclesiastes 7:15*)

Ecclesiastes chapter Eight - *Charlie Brown tries to predict the future.*

"Because to every purpose there is time and judgment, therefore the misery of man *is* great upon him. For he knoweth not that which shall be: for who can tell him when it shall be?" (*Ecclesiastes 8:6-7*) He gets another partial bit of encouragement, but ends with disillusionment- "Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his *days* be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him: But it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong *his days*, *which are* as a shadow; because he feareth not before God. There is a vanity which is done upon the earth; that there be just *men*, unto whom it happeneth according to the work of the wicked; again, there be wicked *men*, to whom it happeneth according to the work of the righteous: I said that this also *is* vanity." (*Ecclesiastes 8:12-14*)

Ecclesiastes chapter Nine - *Charlie Brown looks to athletic victories.*

“I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race *is* not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all.” (*Ecclesiastes 9:11*)

He realizes that time and chance happen to all and that most days are unfortunate or evil-
“For man also knoweth not his time: as the fishes that are taken in an evil net, and as the birds that are caught in the snare; so *are* the sons of men snared in an evil time, when it falleth suddenly upon them.” (*Ecclesiastes 9:12*)

Ecclesiastes chapter Ten - *Charlie Brown runs for public office.*

“There is an evil *which* I have seen under the sun, as an error *which* proceedeth from the ruler: Folly is set in great dignity, and the rich sit in low place. I have seen servants upon horses, and princes walking as servants upon the earth.” (*Ecclesiastes 10:5-7*) This does not bring fulfillment, because the election results are not predictable- “Woe to thee, O land, when thy king *is* a child, and thy princes eat in the morning! Blessed *art* thou, O land, when thy king *is* the son of nobles, and thy princes eat in due season, for strength, and not for drunkenness!” (*Ecclesiastes 10:16-17*)

Ecclesiastes chapter Eleven - *Charlie Brown looks to Mother Nature.*

“If the clouds be full of rain, they empty *themselves* upon the earth: and if the tree fall toward the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be. He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap.” (*Ecclesiastes 11:3-4*) He discovers that a sunny day still can be a bad day- “Truly the light *is* sweet, and a pleasant *thing it is* for the eyes to behold the sun: But if a man live many years, *and* rejoice in them all; yet let him remember the days of darkness; for they shall be many. All that cometh *is* vanity.” (*Ecclesiastes 11:7-8*)

Ecclesiastes chapter Twelve - *Charlie Brown looks to the Lord Jesus Christ...finally!*

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this *is* the whole *duty* of man.” (*Ecclesiastes 12:13*)

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” *John 3:16*