

伝道者の書 5 章 18–20 節の意味と第十戒

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ABSTRACT Hikaru KUMON, “Ecclesiastes 5:18–20 and the Tenth Commandment.” Ecclesiastes has long been seen as a pessimistic book, to the extent that even whether Qoheleth believes in the possibility of a good life has often been questioned. One of the key passages that has been debated concerning this matter is Ecclesiastes 5:18–20. Does this text simply suggest that people seize the day (*carpe diem*)? Or is there a more positive statement about an ideal life within this text? I propose that contrary to the interpretation of most commentators, Qoheleth is describing an ideal way for humans to live in this text. I begin by addressing the grammatical difficulties in the passage, particularly the issue of the אֲשֶׁר clauses. Then I move on to explain the meaning of the text. The text describes what is “everything for humanity,” that is, the ideal life for humanity. The life described is one where God provides for physical nourishment, as well as emotional nourishment. This contrasts with typical human behavior, where one relies on one’s own power to provide for oneself. Such an ideal life is closely related to the Garden of Eden, where humanity was once provided for by God. Such a person who is provided for by God also fears God and keeps his commandments, as Ecclesiastes 12:13 implies. The upshot of this study, in relation to the tenth commandment, is that a person who keeps the tenth commandment is one whose needs are satisfied by God.