

August 23, 2015

**ALL ALONE IN A CROWD**

**STEPS – PART 4**

**Ecclesiastes 4:8**

Steve Allen, Associate Pastor

***Ecc 4:8 (HCSB) There is a person without a companion, without even a son or brother, and though there is no end to all his struggles, his eyes are still not content with riches. “So who am I struggling for,” he asks, “and depriving myself from good?” This too is futile and a miserable task.***

***Ecc 4:8 (Msg) I turned my head and saw yet another wisp of smoke on its way to nothingness: a solitary person, completely alone—no children, no family, no friends—yet working obsessively late into the night, compulsively greedy for more and more, never bothering to ask, “Why am I working like a dog, never having any fun? And who cares?” More smoke. A bad business.***

**FOUR DEVASTATING HANDICAPS**

1. He has no relationships. *Ecc 4:8 “There is a person without a companion”*
2. He has no helping hand. *...there is no end to his struggles...*
3. He has no answers. *“So who am I struggling for?”*
4. He has no purpose. *This too is futile and a miserable task.*

**THE SOLUTION: Do Life Together (Actively Participate in a LIFE Group)**

We see the first LIFE Groups in Acts 2:42-47.

1. LIFE Groups provide a community to develop relationships.  
(Acts 2:42; 1 Cor 12:13-21)
2. LIFE Groups provide an organization to receive/give a helping hand.  
(Acts 2:44-45)
3. LIFE Groups provide a study group to find answers in the Scriptures.  
(Acts 2:42)
4. LIFE Groups provide a team to work/fight/give to accomplish God’s purpose. (Acts 2:46-47; Matt 28:18-20; Acts 1:8)

LIFE Groups provide everything that our man in Ecclesiastes was missing.  
Why don’t we attend?

Fear 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Faith

Consumerism 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Commitment

Comfort 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Obedience

Will you actively participate in a LIFE Group?