> *Ecclesiastes 1:15 (NIV),*“What is crooked cannot be straightened; what is lacking cannot be counted.”

In this verse, Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived (1 Kings 4:29-34), offers a profound insight about the limitations of human wisdom and effort apart from God. Ecclesiastes is a reflective book in which Solomon documents his search for meaning in life through wisdom, wealth, pleasure, and human achievement — only to conclude that everything is *“meaningless, a chasing after the wind”* (Ecclesiastes 1:14, NIV).

1. “What is crooked cannot be straightened”

This statement reflects a fundamental truth about the human condition in a fallen world. Since the entrance of sin through Adam and Eve (Genesis 3), humanity has lived under a moral and spiritual distortion. Sin has bent creation out of its original design, and no human effort can restore what has been broken apart from divine intervention.

Solomon realized that despite all his wisdom and attempts at reform, there are things man simply cannot fix. Some examples today illustrate this:

- Moral Deviation:
  Society may try to redefine what is right or wrong, such as legalizing same-sex marriage or altering gender identities. However, this does not change God’s original design.Genesis 1:27 (NIV):
  “So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.”
  Romans 1:26-27 (NIV) also speaks directly to these attempts to suppress God’s truth and follow unnatural desires. Yet, such paths lead not to freedom but to spiritual confusion and suffering.

- Cosmetic Alterations:
  Whether through skin bleaching, artificial enhancements, or surgical identity changes, many people try to “improve” themselves based on worldly standards of beauty or acceptance. But external change cannot heal internal brokenness.

What Solomon emphasizes here is not a critique of people, but of the futility of trying to correct sin’s consequences without addressing the root cause — separation from God.

> *Ecclesiastes 7:13 (NIV):*
> “Consider what God has done: Who can straighten what he has made crooked?”

Only God can redeem what is broken. That’s the hope the gospel offers — that what sin has damaged, Christ can restore.

2. “What is lacking cannot be counted”

This phrase highlights the endless human quest for knowledge and control. Despite all our technological progress and scientific exploration, we still know very little of the vast universe God has made.

Even today, researchers estimate that over 80% of Earth’s species remain undiscovered. Every day, new discoveries are made, and still — the unknown far outweighs the known.

> *Job 11:7 (NIV):*
> “Can you fathom the mysteries of God? Can you probe the limits of the Almighty?”

Solomon is making a sobering point: No matter how much man learns or gains, he will never attain ultimate understanding or satisfaction apart from God. Human striving, when disconnected from divine purpose, is like trying to count what doesn’t exist — futile and empty.

What’s the Conclusion?

After exploring wisdom, pleasure, work, and wealth — all apart from God — Solomon reaches a final, resounding truth:

> *Ecclesiastes 12:13 (NIV):*
> “Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind.”

This is the foundation of a meaningful life — reverence for God and obedience to His Word.

Hope in Christ

The ultimate solution to humanity’s brokenness is not found in philosophy, science, or self-effort — but in Jesus Christ, the only one who can truly restore and give rest to our souls.

> *Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV):*
> 28 “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.
> 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
> 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Jesus invites all who are tired of trying to fix life on their own to come to Him. He doesn’t promise a life without challenges, but He promises peace, rest, and eternal purpose.

A Call to Respond

If you’ve been searching for meaning, healing, or direction, and

you realize you’ve been chasing answers without God — now is the time to turn to Him. He offers forgiveness, new life, and hope through Jesus.

Prayer of Repentance:

> Lord Jesus, I recognize that I am a sinner and cannot fix my life on my own. I have tried many things, but nothing satisfies. Today, I repent of my sins and ask for Your forgiveness. I believe that You died for me and rose again. I surrender my life to You — lead me, change me, and fill me with Your Spirit. Help me to follow You and live according to Your will. In Your name, Jesus, I pray. Amen.

God bless you as you choose the path of life, truth, and hope in Christ.

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What is the meaning of “What Is Crooked Cannot Be Straightened”? (Ecclesiastes 1:15)

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