I. Introduction
   a. Watching the Olympics is great
      i. But sometimes I wonder what could have been if I had pursued a different course
      ii. Could I have been best in the world at something?
      iii. Have I wasted my life by focusing on the wrong things?
   b. We only have one life, we don’t want to waste it
      i. So should consider, what is really worth pursuing about all other things?
      ii. What is our highest good?
   c. Ecclesiastes
      i. Solomon considered that question in the book of Ecclesiastes
      ii. What is man’s highest good? Eccl 6:12
      iii. Many things that men and women dedicate their lives to, aren’t really worth it
      iv. They are vanity, vain, empty, void, worthless and a waste – Eccl 1:1-3

II. Things that cannot be our highest good
   a. These are not bad things
      i. We should value and appreciate them
      ii. But they are not good enough to the central purpose and aim of our lives
   b. Wisdom
      i. Good – Eccl. 2:13; 7:12; 12:12
      ii. But not good enough – Eccl. 1:12-18
   c. Pleasure
      i. Good – Eccl. 8:15
      ii. But not good enough – Eccl. 2:1-11
   d. Wealth
      i. Good - 5:18-19; 7:12
      ii. But not good enough – 5:10-17
   e. Companionship
      i. Good – 9:9
      ii. But not good enough
   f. Justice
      i. Good - 3:16-17; 8:11;
      ii. But not good enough – 1: 14-15
   g. Labor
      i. Good – 2:22; 9:10
      ii. Not good enough – 1:3,8
   h. Strength
i. Not good enough – Eccl. 9:16; 9:10-12

III. If we pursue any of these things as our highest good, we will waste our lives
   a. What is worth giving our lives to?
   b. Knowing and being known by the LORD God
   d. Living in submission to His will, motivated by love for Him
   e. Start early,
      i. Eccl 11:9-10; 12:1, 6-8
      ii. Or you may never learn to truly appreciate Him
   f. Our Creator and God is our highest good, if we do not pursue Him with all our being, we will waste our lives – Eccl. 12:13-14
g.