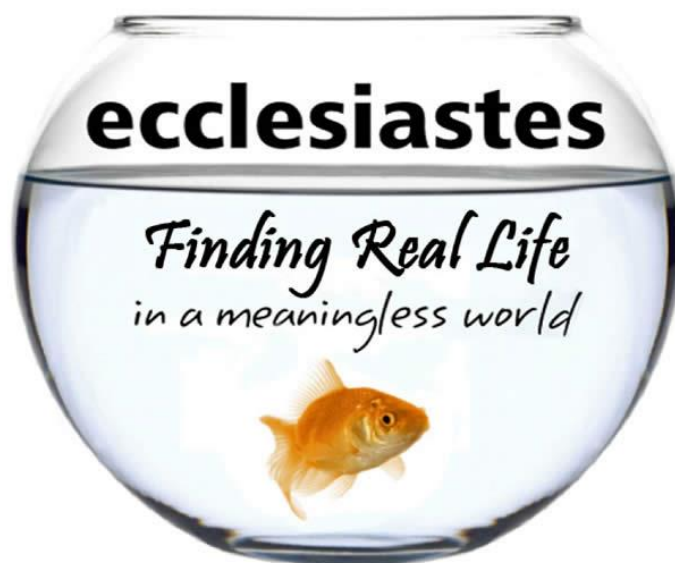


Pastor Hank's Notes on: Ecclesiastes Or, The Preacher



Author of: Ecclesiastes Or, The Preacher: Solomon

Thousands of years ago King Solomon, with all of his wisdom and his great resources, tried to find an answer to this great philosophical question:

“What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun?” (Ecclesiastes 1:3)

Brief Overview of The Life of Solomon:

He was a child of promise:

1 Chronicles 22:9-10

⁹ Behold, a son shall be born to thee, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies round about: for his name shall be **Solomon**, and I will give peace and quietness unto Israel in his days.

¹⁰ He shall build an house for my name; and he shall be my son, and I will be his father; and I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel for ever.

Solomon is the third and last king of the united kingdom of Israel, following King Saul and King David. He was the son of David and Bathsheba, the former wife of Uriah the Hittite whom David had killed to hide his adultery with Bathsheba while her husband was on the battle front. Solomon wrote the Song of Solomon, much of the book of Proverbs, Psalms 72 & 127 and **Ecclesiastes**.

What are the highlights of **Solomon's** life? When he ascended to the throne, he sought after God and God gave him opportunity to ask for whatever he wanted. Solomon humbly acknowledged his inability to rule well and unselfishly asked God for the wisdom he would need to rule God's people justly. God gave him wisdom and wealth besides (1 Kings 3:4; 10:27). In fact, his riches and wisdom surpassed all of the kings of the earth (1 Kings 10:23). God also gave him peace on all sides during most of his reign (1 Kings 4:20-25). The favorite illustration of that wisdom is his judging a dispute over the identity of the true mother of an infant child (1 Kings 3:16-28). Solomon was not only wise in his rule but had great general wisdom as well. His wisdom was renowned in his day, and the Queen of Sheba traveled 1,200 miles to verify the rumors of his wisdom and fame (1 Kings 10).

Solomon wrote many proverbs and songs (1 Kings 4:32).

1 Kings 4:32

³² And he spake three thousand proverbs: and his songs were a thousand and five.

Solomon was a botanist and biologist.

1 Kings 4:33

³³ And he spake of trees, from the cedar tree that is in Lebanon even unto the hyssop that springeth out of the wall: he spake also of beasts, and of fowl, and of creeping things, and of fishes.

He received **666** talents of gold yearly. That's about 730,000 ounces of gold per year!

1 Kings 10:14

¹⁴ Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was six hundred threescore and six talents of gold,

Solomon completed many building projects (1 Kings 7:1-12, 9:15-23). Solomon also built a fleet of ships and acquired tons of gold from Ophir with King Hiram of Tyre, as a partner (1 Kings 9:26-28; 10:11, 22). Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines, many of them foreigners who led him into public idolatry in his old age, greatly angering God (1 Kings 11:1-13).

There are many lessons we can learn from the life of Solomon. First, when we seek God with all of our heart, He will be found (1 Kings 3:3-7). Second, those who honor God will be honored by Him (1 Kings 3:11-13; 1 Samuel 2:30). Third, God will equip us to accomplish the tasks He calls

us to if we will rely on Him (1 Kings 3; Romans 12:3-8; 2 Peter 1:3). Fourth, the spiritual life is a marathon, not a sprint. A good start is not always enough to finish well (1 Kings 3, 11). Fifth, we can sincerely ask God to incline our hearts toward Him (1 Kings 8:57-58), but we will wander off the path of righteousness if we choose to violate His revealed word. Contrary to God's written word concerning kings (Deuteronomy 17:14-17), Solomon multiplied to himself gold, horses, and wives (700 wives and 300 concubines). He also married non-Jewish wives, which was forbidden by God (Deuteronomy 7:3, 4; Exodus 34:16). Sixth, those closest to us will affect our spiritual lives (Exodus 34:16; 1 Kings 11:1-8; Daniel 1, 3; 1 Corinthians 15:33), and we must therefore be very careful of the company we keep. Seventh, life lived apart from God will be meaningless, regardless of education, fulfilled goals, the greatest of pleasures, and the greatest abundance of wealth (Ecclesiastes 1:2).

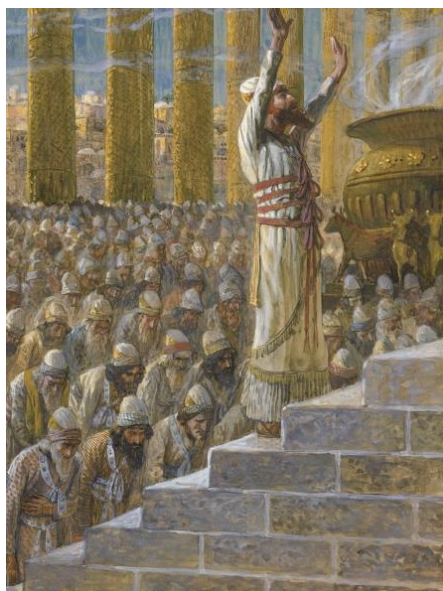
The crowning achievement of Solomon's reign is the building of the Temple, called Solomon's Temple (also called The First Temple) which housed the Ark of the Covenant which his father, King David, had dreamt about. This is the pinnacle of Jewish history!

1 Kings 9:1-3

1 And it came to pass, when Solomon had finished the building of the house of the LORD, and the king's house, and all Solomon's desire which he was pleased to do,

² That the LORD appeared to Solomon the second time, as he had appeared unto him at Gibeon.

³ And the LORD said unto him, I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me: I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there for ever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.



King Solomon dedicates the Temple at Jerusalem, painting by James Tissot, 1896–1902

Solomon Reigned as King of Israel for 40 Years, died and was succeeded by his son Rehoboam.

1 Kings 11:42-43

⁴² And the time that Solomon reigned in Jerusalem over all Israel was forty years.

⁴³ And Solomon slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David his father: and Rehoboam his son reigned in his stead.

Solomon is in The Genealogy of The Messiah, Our Lord and Saviour Jesus!

Matthew 1:7

⁷ And **Solomon** begat Roboam; and Roboam begat Abia; and Abia begat Asa;

Solomon life is mentioned throughout 2 Samuel, 1&2 Kings, 1&2 Chronicles, Proverbs, Song of Solomon and Ecclesiastes. Solomon is also mentioned in: Nehemiah, Psalms, Jeremiah, Matthew, Luke and Acts.

The Name: Solomon means: Peaceful.

Solomon is the #592 most common male first name, 0.013% of males in the US are named Solomon. Around 15925 US males are named Solomon!

The prophet Nathan called him Jedidiah, "beloved of the Lord".

2 Samuel 12:25

²⁵ And he sent by the hand of Nathan the prophet; and he called his name Jedidiah, because of the LORD.

The Book: Ecclesiastes

21st Book of The Bible! Chapters: 12, Verses: 222, Words: 5584

Ecclesiastes is also called: **The book of the acts of Solomon**

1 Kings 11:41

⁴¹ And the rest of the acts of Solomon, and all that he did, and his wisdom, are they not written in **the book of the acts of Solomon**?

Date written: Around 977 B.C. From Ussher's Chronology.

Historical and Theological Themes:

One main Theme of Ecclesiastes is life **"under the sun"**. This expression occurs 29 times in 12 chapters.

Another main Theme is **"Vanity"**. Looking at life all around, Solomon judges it to be **Vanity** – empty, nothing, useless, meaningless.

Psalms 39:5

⁵ Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily **every man at his best state is altogether vanity**. Selah.

Key Words: "Vanity" occurs 33 times in 28 verses, "Vanities" occurs 4 times in 3 verses. "Wisdom" occurs 28 times in 25 verses. "Wise" occurs 25 times in 23 verses. "Man" occurs 54 times in 47 verses. "Labour" occurs 23 times in 21 verses. "Evil" occurs 22 times in 19 verses.

The Message:

(1) Genuine happiness is not found in human wisdom, wealth, power, and pleasure; (2) Apart from God, life is futile, empty, and without meaning; (3) the supreme good is to "fear God and keep his commandments" (12:13).

Ecclesiastes represents the painful autobiography of **Solomon** who, for much of his life, squandered God's blessings on his own personal pleasure rather than God's glory. The book

contains the results of King Solomon's investigations into the meaning of life. He wrote to warn future generations not to make the same tragic error

Some feel depressed when reading this book. Some don't even want to read the book because of its depressing tone! This was Solomon's purpose. Whenever a person lives his life apart from the clear influence of God's grace, he will end up with a sad and unfulfilled life. Something is desperately missing. Unfortunately, man doesn't observe this right away but often only after most of his life has passed.

This book gives Christians a chance to see the world through the eyes of a person who, though very wise, is trying to find meaning in temporary, human things. Most every form of worldly pleasure is explored by the Preacher, and none of it gives him a sense of meaning.

In the end, the Preacher comes to accept that faith in God is the only way to find personal meaning. He decides to accept the fact that life is brief and ultimately worthless without God. The Preacher advises the reader to focus on an eternal God instead of temporary pleasure.

When Reading or Studying Ecclesiastes, Remember:

- It's a Worldly Book.
- It's an "American" Book. We can all relate to Solomon in some points of Ecclesiastes.
- Ecclesiastes isn't a Church Doctrine book, although we will see some Doctrine presented.

The Tone of Ecclesiastes is:

- Solomon is gonna tell you, what he's seen "under the sun".
- If anyone could have told you what's "under the sun", it's Solomon! The man did just about anything and everything a man could do.
- It's a Philosopher looking at life from a Natural Man's point of view.

The first seven chapters of the book of Ecclesiastes describe all of the worldly things "under the sun" that the Preacher tries to find fulfillment in. Chapters 8-12 of Ecclesiastes describe the Preacher's suggestions and comments on how a life should be lived. He comes to the conclusion that without God, there is no truth or meaning to life.

Ecclesiastes 1

Chapter 1 Outline: All is vanity; our labour great and unprofitable, Ecclesiastes 1:1-3. The whole course of things is always going and returning, verses 4-7. Nothing in nature is satisfied, verse 8, Nothing new; old things are forgot, verses 9-11. The search after wisdom is itself a vain labour and cannot supply our natural wants, nor satisfy our desires; but increaseth sorrow: all this the Preacher found out by experience, verses 12-18.

Verse 1

1 The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.

The Preacher... who was not only a king, but also a teacher of God's people.

The Preacher... In Hebrew, this translates the word *Koheleth*. The idea is of someone who would gather, lead, or speak to a group of people - a congregation. The word Preacher קהלת *Koheleth* is

a feminine noun. Even since Bible times have people spoke in feminine nouns and feminine pronouns. Solomon was the wisest man who ever lived. Wisdom is a “**she**”.

Proverbs 1:20-21

²⁰ **Wisdom** crieth without; **she uttereth her voice** in the streets:

²¹ **She** crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city **she** uttereth **her** words, saying,

God Bless America, by Irving Berlin:

God bless America, land that I love,

Stand beside **her** and guide **her**...

- “I love my car. I always wash her on Saturdays.”

- We usually name our boats after Women...

the son of David... Solomon was the son of David, a wise and godly father, who had given him both excellent counsel, and, generally a good example as a man and father.

King in Jerusalem... not of Jerusalem only, but of all Israel. This verse is supplemented by Ecclesiastes 1:12 with the words, "over Israel”.

Verse 2

² Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; **all is vanity**.

Solomon starts off Negative: “Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity”. Solomon is a pessimist, he’s a negative thinker.

Vanity doesn’t mean foolish pride (modern). In The Bible Vanity means empty, nothing, useless, meaningless. Life is negative... Life is empty... Life is useless...

All is vanity: To further strengthen the point, Solomon noted not only that life is **vanity**, but that **all is vanity**. It seemed that every part of life suffered from this emptiness.

A Modern Day Life Application to a Negative Life is **Murphy’s Laws:**

- If anything can go wrong, it will.
- Don't force it; get a larger hammer.
- Inside every small problem is a large problem struggling to get out.
- Opportunity always knocks at the least opportune moment.
- If it breaks, it needed replacing anyway.
- No matter how long or how hard you shop for an item, after you've bought it, it will be on sale somewhere cheaper.
- The other line always moves faster.
- In order to get a loan, you must first prove you don't need it.

- Murphy's golden rule: whoever has the gold makes the rules.
- A Smith & Wesson beats four aces.
- Anything is easier to take apart than it is to put together.
- No matter which direction you start it's always against the wind coming back.



Again, Verse 2

²Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; **all is vanity**

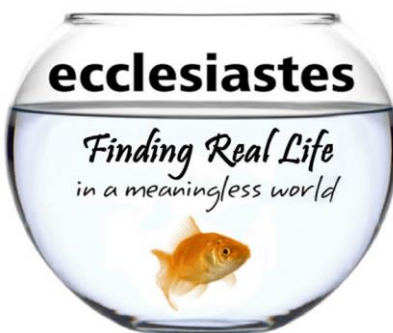
In Ecclesiastes, Solomon Lists 10 Vanities, all good things than Man values.

1. Labor, Ecclesiastes 1:3
2. Wisdom, 2:13
3. Purpose, 2:26
4. Ambition, 4:4
5. Selfishness, 4:7
6. Fame, 4:16
7. Money, 5:10
8. Coveting, 6:9
9. Fun, 7:6
10. Getting Rewards, 8:14

Job 7:16

¹⁶I loathe it; I would not live alway: let me alone; **for my days are vanity.**

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Ecclesiastes 1

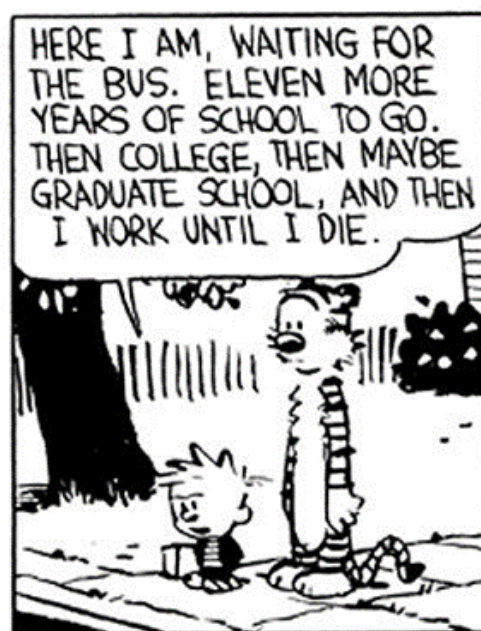
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Verse 3

³ **What profit hath a man** of all his **labour** which he taketh **under the sun**?

The implied answer to this rhetorical question is that there is no profit for man in his work. Rather than saying, "All work is vanity," Solomon made the same point by asking this rhetorical question that expects a negative response. He used this literary device often throughout the book; (Ecclesiastes 2:2; Ecclesiastes 3:9; Ecclesiastes 6:8; Ecclesiastes 6:11-12).

LOUTHERBOURG'S VIGNETTES FOR MACKLIN'S BIBLE. PHILLIP MEDHURST



What profit hath a man... Jesus asked a similar question in:

Matthew 16:26

²⁶ For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

Profit is gain from one's labor, but in Solomon's negative view, a labour of life pays no dividends... What Profit? – What lasting advantage can labour bring? None...

labour... One of Solomon's Ten Vanities. Solomon does not condemn man's labour or diligence, but shows that there is no full contentment in anything under the sun.

under the sun... That is, **in this life**, as opposed to the future world. The phrase often recurs, but only in Ecclesiastes. One main **Theme** of Ecclesiastes is life "under the sun". This expression occurs 29 times in 12 chapters.

Verse 4, The unending cycle of creation, verses 4-7:

⁴ One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: **but the earth abideth for ever.**

Solomon looks out upon humanity, and sees that in one aspect the world is full of births, and in another full of deaths.

UNICEF estimates that an average of **353,000 babies** are born each day around the world. The crude birth rate is 18.9 births per **1,000** population or **255** births globally per minute or 4.3 births every second (as of Dec. 2013 estimate). **154,889 deaths** take place as daily average.



One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh ...Men succeed each other in unceasing generations: but the earth is still the same; and it will continue the same during the whole course of time; till the end of all things arrives: Jesus.

This shows that a man can have no profit of all his labour under the sun, because of his short continuance; as soon almost as he has got anything by his labour, he must **pass away**...

"One hopes to make the world a better place, or at least leave something for those who follow. As though expecting that reply, Solomon points to the ceaseless making and unmaking that goes on in human history: the wave after wave of generations with their rise and fall, their coming men who are soon forgotten men" - Derek Kidner

but the earth abideth for ever... **For ever** has two meanings in The Bible:

1. Forever, Eternal.

Revelation 14:11

¹¹ And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up **for ever and ever**: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

2. Solomon's meaning: As long as you're alive on down here on **Earth**, under the sun.

Exodus 21:6

⁶ Then his master shall bring him unto the judges; he shall also bring him to the door, or unto the door post; and his master shall bore his ear through with an aul; and he shall serve him **for ever**.

The servant will not serve the master **forever** in Hell or Heaven...

**The reason for mentioning this is because the Earth will not abide forever, God will in the future destroy the Earth by fire and create a new earth.

2 Peter 3:10

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

Again, Solomon is just talking about our temporal life here on Earth, under the sun.

Verse 5

⁵ The sun also ariseth, and the sun goeth down, and hasteth to his place where he arose.

The Sun rises in the morning and the Sun sets at night, what you see is the Sun coming up and going down... every day... and then it makes haste to go round the other hemisphere in the night... for as long as you're alive on down here on Earth, **under the sun**... From what Solomon could observe **under the sun**, these unchanging cycles expressed the unchanging monotony of life, leading to its vanity and meaninglessness.

Even the powerful **sun** is caught up in this treadmill of vanity. The word "hastening" means to breathe hard, pant, as one in haste. The **sun** and the wind are in constant motion but never arrive at any fixed goal or lasting rest. People will say, "What is freer than nature!" But Solomon responds, even nature, the most powerful forces in nature aren't free. They are on the same treadmill as you and I.

In The Old Testament creation rings with the praises of the LORD. Creation is The LORD'S. Solomon takes a dim view on this, even though his Bible says:



Psalms 19:1-4

¹ The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

² Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.

³ There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.

⁴ Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun,

Psalms 104:19-23

¹⁹ He appointed the moon for seasons: the sun knoweth his going down.

²⁰ Thou makest darkness, and it is night: wherein all the beasts of the forest do creep forth.

²¹ The young lions roar after their prey, and seek their meat from God.

²² The sun ariseth, they gather themselves together, and lay them down in their dens.

²³ **Man goeth forth unto his work and to his labour until the evening.**

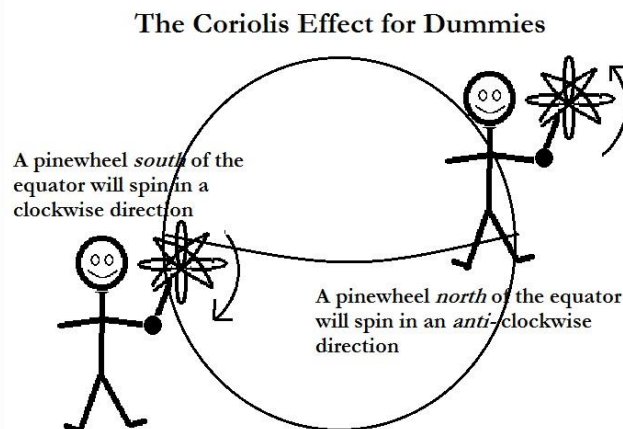


Verse 6

⁶ The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirlleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits.

Just like labour, the generations, the earth and the Sun comes and goes, so does the wind...

The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirlleth about continually... The Coriolis Effect, named for French mathematician Gaspard-Gustave de Coriolis (1792–1843). In 1835, Coriolis discovered that a force appears to be operating on any moving object situated on a rotating body, such as a stream of air traveling on the surface of a rotating planet. Because of the spinning of Earth, any moving object above the planet's surface tends to drift sideways from its course of motion. Thus winds are deflected from their straightforward direction. In the Northern Hemisphere, the Coriolis Effect tends to drive winds to the right. In the Southern Hemisphere, it tends to drive winds to the left and is important in the formation of cyclonic weather systems. **Solomon is Preaching God's Creation-Science!**



Verse 7

⁷ All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again.

All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full... The reason the sea is not full is because nothing goes into it either by the rivers or by rain, that does not come from it: and to the place where the rivers come, whether from the sea originally by evaporation, or immediately by rain, they return again; for the water exhaled from the sea by evaporation is collected in the clouds, and in rain, falls upon the tops of the mountains; and, filtered through their rocks, soil, produce streams, several of which uniting, make rivers, which flow into the sea. The water is again evaporated by the sun; the vapors collected are precipitated; and, being filtered through the earth, become streams, etc., as before. And Solomon thinks this is BORING... Again, Solomon is Preaching Science! Wind (verse 6) and Water are important factors in our Weather!

Job 28:25 says:

25 To make the weight for the winds; and he weigheth the waters by measure.

Job says the air has weight. It was not until the 17th century that Galileo discovered that atmosphere has weight, and the modern science of aerodynamics is based on this scientific fact. Further, the weight of air is important in the function of the earth's weather. "The study of air flows and their relation to the weight of the air has been developed into the science of aerodynamics, eventually becoming the basis of all modern aerospace developments.

Job 38:24 says:

24 By what way is the light parted, which scattereth the east wind upon the earth?

The Bible says that the light creates wind, but it is only in recent times that modern weather science has discovered that wind is created as the sun light heats up the surface of the earth, causing the hot air to rise and cooler air to fall, creating weather systems.

Hydrology is the study of the movement, distribution, and quality of water on Earth.

The Hydrologic Cycle begins with the evaporation of water from the surface of the ocean. As moist air is lifted, it cools and water vapor condenses to form clouds. Moisture is transported around the globe until it returns to the surface as precipitation.

Psalms 135:7 says:

7 He causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth; he maketh lightnings for the rain; he bringeth the wind out of his treasures.

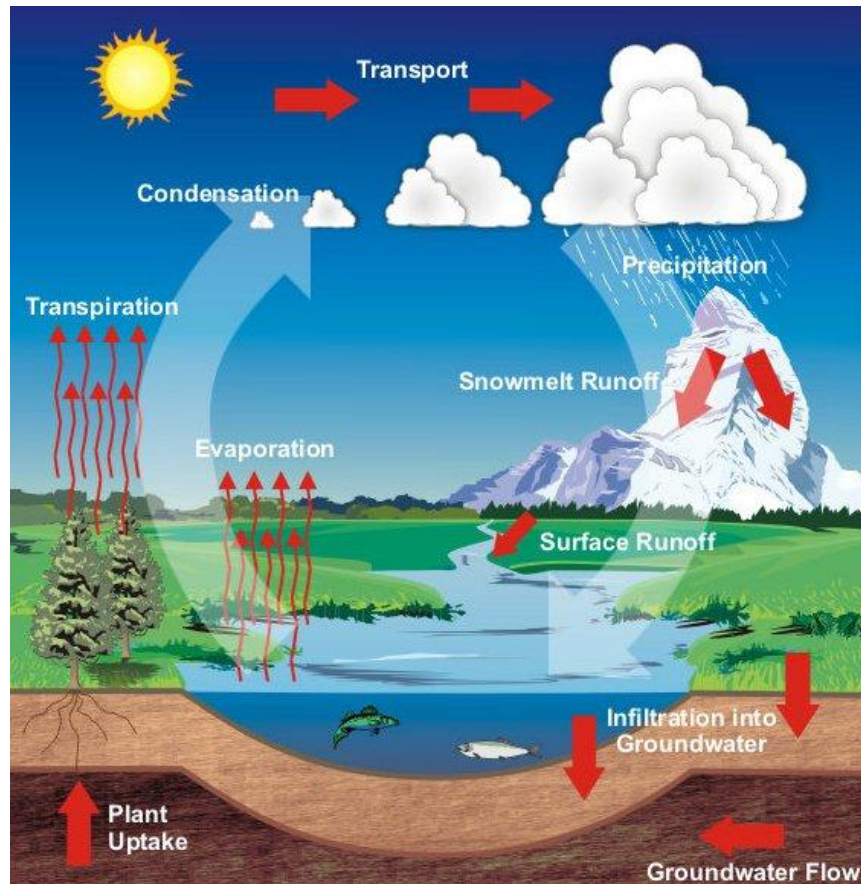
Job describes how that water can be transported in the air when water weighs more than air:

Job 36:27-29

27 For he maketh small the drops of water: they pour down rain according to the vapour thereof:

28 Which the clouds do drop and distil upon man abundantly.

29 Also can any understand the spreadings of the clouds, or the noise of his tabernacle?



Verse 8, Nothing in nature is satisfied...

⁸ All things are full of labour; man cannot utter it: **the eye is not satisfied** with **seeing**, nor the ear filled with *hearing*.

Solomon observes that the meaninglessness of life wasn't only reflected in nature. This frustration is also evident in human effort and endeavor. Despite all man's working (**labour**), **seeing**, and **hearing**, he is still **not satisfied**.

The thing that has been **seen and heard** is no other than what shall be **seen and heard again**; so that what is now seen and heard is only what has been seen and heard before... It is but the same thing over again; and that is the reason why the **eye and ear** are never satisfied; the same objects, as the visible heavens and earth, and all therein, which have been from the beginning, these are they which shall be, and there is nothing else to be seen and heard, and enjoyed... And in time becomes unfulfilling (**not satisfied**). You've seen one Squirrel, you've seen 10,000 Squirrels... Your favorite song, after 500 times hearing it, you start to hate it!!

the eye is not satisfied... This is very similar to what Solomon said in Proverb:

Proverbs 27:20

²⁰ Hell and destruction are never full; **so the eyes of man are never satisfied**.

Solomon says, even though we long to see or hear something new, nothing new ever really shows up. Life is a rehash of what has happened before; it is the old played over and over again. Every day we see an endless procession of visual images: TVs, Cable, Verizon Fios, Comcast, YouTube,

BlackBerry, Netflix.... We can also listen to an endless stream of sounds: iPod, iPhone, iTunes, CDs, and mp3s. Yet, even after all our looking and listening, our eyes and our ears are not satisfied. We still want to see and hear more. Soon we are back to take in more of the endless procession of sounds and images. We can never get enough. There is always one more show to watch, one more game to play, one more song to which to listen. So we keep Texting, Video Gaming, Webcasting, Facebooking, Twittering, and Flickr-ing. But what have we gained? What have we accomplished? Is there any profit?"

Americans check their cell phones 45-150 times a day, every day. That means on an average day (say 6:00am - 10:00pm), we each reach for our phones every six minutes. That's incredible! **What in the world are we doing on these things? Everything, or Nothing...Is this Vanity?...**



Nothing new; old things are forgot, verses 9-11:

Verse 9

⁹ The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is **no new thing under the sun.**

Despite all man's work and progress, life seems monotonously the same. Things that seem new get old very quickly, so it could be said "**there is nothing new under the sun.**"

What really changes? Communication or just the methods and speed? Illness, or just the diagnostics and treatment? (Do we envision that someday there will be no need for doctors and hospitals here on earth?) Does money really change, or just the form, the use and the systems of exchange? Relationships, Politics, Sin? Do not confuse methods with principle. The essence of our existence here on earth doesn't really change. **It is what it is.** Whatever seems to be new "has been already in the ages before us."



There may be **no new thing under the sun**; but thankfully the followers of Jesus - those Born Again by God's Spirit - don't live **under the sun** in that sense. Their life is filled with new things:

1. A New Name. (Isaiah 62:2, Revelation 2:17)

Isaiah 62:2

² And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: **and thou shalt be called by a new name**, which the mouth of the LORD shall name.

2. A New Relationship with Angels. (Psalm 91:11)

Psalm 91:11

¹¹ For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

3. A New Commandment. (John 13:34)

John 13:34

³⁴ A **new commandment** I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

4. A New Covenant- New Testament. (Jeremiah 31:33, Matthew 26:28)

Matthew 26:28

²⁸ For this is my blood of the **new testament**, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

5. A New way of access through Christ by believers into the presence of God. (Hebrews 10:20)

Hebrews 10:20

²⁰ By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;

6. A New Purity. (1 Corinthians 5:7)

1 Corinthians 5:7

⁷ Purge out therefore the old leaven, **that ye may be a new lump**, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

7. A New Nature (Ephesians 4:24)

Ephesians 4:24

²⁴ **And that ye put on the new man**, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

8. A new creation in Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17)

All things become new! (2 Corinthians 5:17, Revelation 21:5)

2 Corinthians 5:17

¹⁷ Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

9. A New Home. (Revelation 21:1)

Revelation 21:1

¹ And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

10. A New Eternity. (Revelation 21:5)

Revelation 21:5

⁵ And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

Verse 10 ¹⁰ Is there any thing whereof it may be said, **See, this is new?** it hath been already of old time, which was before us.

See, this is new?... We all want the “New thing” and pretty soon it’s the old thing and collecting dust in the closet somewhere. Our memories are short-lived. What we think is new is only new to us. Fashions, trends, hairstyles, kids names, music, etc....all end up coming back in one form or another. Things go out of style and then they come back in style. And what one generation was tired of, another generation greedily exclaims, "this is the greatest!" What’s new is really old...



Verse 11

¹¹ There is no remembrance of former things; neither shall there be any remembrance of things that are to come with those that shall come after.

The futility of life seems to extend in both directions, both into the past and into the future. Man works hard, yet it never seems to make a lasting difference and all is simply forgotten.

"How many memorable matters were never recorded! How many ancient records long since perished!" - John Trapp, English Anglican Bible commentator. 1601-1669.

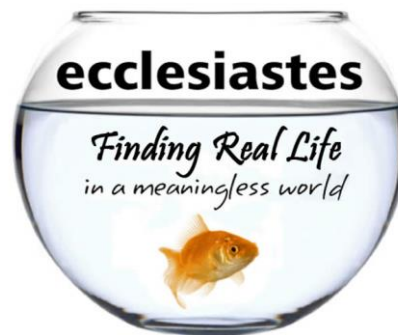
There is no remembrance of former things... Nineveh, "that great city," is no more; who talks about Nineveh? Time has shall triumphed over it.

neither shall there be any remembrance of things that are to come with those that shall come after... People will erect a lasting monument to their existence, they believe this will guarantee that they will not be forgotten. History is always turning back on itself, **with those that shall come after with no remembrance.**



Ok History Buffs: Who are these three men?

Pastor Hank's Notes on: Ecclesiastes Or, The Preacher



Ecclesiastes 1

Chapter 1 Outline: All is vanity; our labour great and unprofitable, Ecclesiastes 1:1-3. The whole course of things is always going and returning, verses 4-7. Nothing in nature is satisfied, verse 8, Nothing new; old things are forgot, verses 9-11. The search after wisdom is itself a vain labour and cannot supply our natural wants, nor satisfy our desires; but increaseth sorrow: all this the Preacher found out by experience, verses 12-18.

Verse 12

¹² I the Preacher was king over Israel in Jerusalem.

Preacher...Is the gatherer, collector and assembler of the People or Congregation. An example of this is found in:

1 Kings 8:1

1 Then Solomon **assembled** the elders of Israel, and all the heads of the tribes, the chief of the fathers of the children of Israel, unto king Solomon in Jerusalem, that they might bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which is Zion.

A Preacher/Pastor: This is one of his main job as well. A Pastor is the gatherer, collector and assembler of the People, Congregation for Church.

king over Israel in Jerusalem... Solomon was a "preacher", not a private person, and must have a good share of knowledge to qualify him for teaching and instructing others; and, more than this, he was a **king**.

in Jerusalem... Specified, as opposed to David, who reigned both in Hebron and Jerusalem; whereas Solomon reigned only in Jerusalem. Again confirming that Solomon is the Author of Ecclesiastes.

Verse 13

¹³ And I gave my **heart to seek and search out by wisdom** concerning all things that are done under heaven: **this sore travail hath God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith.**

Solomon gave his **heart to seek and search out by wisdom**. He's is a Philosopher searching for the meaning of life.

I gave my heart... Which indicates his serious and fixed purpose. To **search** - To **seek** diligently and accurately. By **wisdom** - By the help of that wisdom that God had endowed Solomon. **Concerning** - Regarding all the works of God and men in this lower world; the works of nature; the works of God's providence; and the works and depths of human policy.

sore travail ... Means an occupation which costs effort and causes trouble. It is God's will that man's activities should end in labor, toil, frustration and defeat until they might turn to God and obey Him.

this sore travail hath God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith... God exercises His children, He gives you trials, He tests you, He puts you through some things. Life is a "Gym" and God's "**exercise**" is good for our spiritual health and our spiritual strength.

Verse 14

¹⁴ **I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit.**

I have seen all the works that are done under the sun... Solomon... He's seen it all and **all is vanity** = empty, nothing, useless, meaningless. Plus there's nothing new (verses 9 & 10).

vexation of spirit... Means frustration and lost labor. Occurs 10 times, 9 in Ecclesiastes and 1 time in Isaiah.

Verse 15

¹⁵ **That which is crooked cannot be made straight: and that which is wanting cannot be numbered.**

That which is crooked cannot be made straight... That's why man must be Borned Again! A **crooked** man cannot enter Heaven!

Matthew 7:13-14

¹³ Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

¹⁴ Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

Remember, we put Crooks in jail, The UN is Crooked, City Hall is Cooked... The Crookedness of all the systems of government, economics, education, etc., are utterly beyond man's power to improve or correct them. We are stuck with the situation into which we were born.

What does Trump call Hillary? _____ Hillary!!

Christians are live a straight life!

Philippians 2:15

¹⁵ That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, **in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation**, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

that which is wanting cannot be numbered... Man's state is vanity; and that which is wholly empty cannot be numbered or calculated. The Preacher thinks he can draw up accurate numbers and statistics of man's **wanting**; but even the Preacher's labor cannot produce an accurate number.

“All our knowledge serves only to discover our diseases and miseries, but is oft itself utterly insufficient to heal or remove them; it cannot rectify those confusions and disorders which are either in our own hearts and lives, or in the men and things of the world.” – Matthew Poole

Verse 16

¹⁶ I communed with mine own heart, saying, Lo, I am come to great estate, and have gotten more wisdom than all they that have been before me in Jerusalem: yea, my heart had great experience of wisdom and knowledge.

I communed with mine own heart, saying... Solomon's talking to himself. He's examining his heart.

saying, lo, I am come to great estate... Or have become a great man; famous for wisdom,

and have gotten more wisdom than all they that have been before me... More wisdom than David his Father and Saul.

Ecclesiastes 2:9

⁹ So I was great, and increased more than all that were before me in Jerusalem: also my wisdom remained with me.

Wisdom = Worldly wisdom in Ecclesiastes...

my heart had great experience of wisdom and knowledge...

Knowledge is facts and statistics. Knowledge is accumulated learning.

Wisdom is knowing what to do with what you got.



Wisdom... This approach is natural for anyone who looks for the answers *under the sun*, apart from an eternal perspective. They look *inward* and outward for wisdom and answers, instead of to the God who gives life, who saves and who rules eternity.



1 Corinthians 1:18

¹⁸ For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

You can have “street smarts” or “common sense” about life, but **Wisdom** is a gift from God.

1 Kings 3:5-14

⁵ In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee.

⁶ And Solomon said, Thou hast shewed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day.

⁷ And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in.

⁸ And thy servant is in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude.

⁹ **Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?**

¹⁰ And the speech pleased the LORD, that Solomon had asked this thing.

¹¹ And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment;

¹² Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee.

¹³ And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour: so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days.

¹⁴ And if thou wilt walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as thy father David did walk, then I will lengthen thy days.

Verse 17

¹⁷ And I gave my heart to know wisdom, and to know **madness and folly: I perceived that this also is vexation of spirit.**

In verse 13 Solomon gave his heart to seek and search for wisdom, here Solomon gave his heart to know wisdom. Solomon was the wisest man to ever live, and it's funny to note that all the Greek Philosophers were born after Solomon!

Solomon also gave his heart to know **madness and folly**:

Madness... Is uncontrolled sin, reckless sin, it's tempting God! Madness is the opposite of wisdom.

Folly... Is small or minor sin, foolishness.

Solomon gave his heart to wisdom, madness and folly and what was the result? **I perceived that this also is vexation of spirit = frustration and lost labor.** Solomon explored the world of the irrational. I think many of us tried this during some period in our life...

I perceived that this also is vexation of spirit.... At least Solomon was honest. The world is filled with people that never wake up and realize that their pursuit of madness and folly has failed and they have reached the end of the line. Some people stubbornly cling to things which have never really brought them any enjoyment. Solomon was honest enough to realize, "This isn't the answer".

Verse 18

¹⁸ For in much wisdom is much grief: and he that **increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow**.

Increased knowledge and increased sorrow... The more you learn and know about the world, the world system, the news, about life, about people... **THE MORE DEPRESSED YOU BECOME!** The more the Preacher understood life **under the sun**, the greater his **sorrow** grew. The more he learned, the more he realized what he didn't know. The more he knew, the more he knew of life's sorrows.



But remember, we don't have to live a life of sorrows. Jesus knows what we're going through. He can relate to what us humans go through.

Isaiah 53:3

³ He is despised and rejected of men; **a man of sorrows**, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Some Bible Verses of Comfort:

Deuteronomy 31:8

⁸ And the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.

Psalms 34:17

¹⁷ The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.

Psalms 3:3

³ But thou, O LORD, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head.

1 Peter 5:6-7

⁶ Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

⁷ Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

³ Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;

⁴ Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

Concluding Thoughts, Let's take a quick Test:

Solomon's: The Meaning of Life Test:

1 Life is... _____ (Bible Answer)

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | like a box of chocolates. |
| <input type="radio"/> | endless possibilities. |
| <input type="radio"/> | all about the people you love. |
| <input type="radio"/> | all about who you spend time with. |
| <input type="radio"/> | a rush. |

2 I believe in... _____

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | myself. |
| <input type="radio"/> | myself and a couple close friends |
| <input type="radio"/> | living fast and dying hard. |
| <input type="radio"/> | aliens/ghosts |
| <input type="radio"/> | nothing. |
| <input type="radio"/> | myself and my family. |
| <input type="radio"/> | love at first sight. |

3 If the world was going to end in 24 hours what would I do? _____

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | Rush home to my family. |
| <input type="radio"/> | Hang out with all my friends. |
| <input type="radio"/> | Do something wild. |
| <input type="radio"/> | Finally conquer my greatest fear. |
| <input type="radio"/> | Tell someone I love them. |
| <input type="radio"/> | Scream and run in a circle. |

4 What is the most important thing to me? _____

<input type="radio"/>	That people like me.
<input type="radio"/>	My family.
<input type="radio"/>	My partner.
<input type="radio"/>	My individuality.
<input type="radio"/>	That I am cool.
<input type="radio"/>	That's a hard one.

5 What's the first thing I want to do after work or school? _____

<input type="radio"/>	sleep
<input type="radio"/>	talk/text/chat
<input type="radio"/>	get ready for a date
<input type="radio"/>	go skating/boarding/surfing
<input type="radio"/>	hang out at the movies/book store/coffee shop
<input type="radio"/>	Spend time with my spouse/kids/parents

6 If you were granted one wish what would it be? _____

<input type="radio"/>	Fame
<input type="radio"/>	Money
<input type="radio"/>	No rules
<input type="radio"/>	Happiness for you and others
<input type="radio"/>	Find true love
<input type="radio"/>	World Peace

7 What I want to be remembered for is... _____

<input type="radio"/>	My caring heart
<input type="radio"/>	My crazy ways
<input type="radio"/>	I don't know

8 I get through hard times by... _____

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | distracting myself. |
| <input type="radio"/> | talking about it. |
| <input type="radio"/> | pretending nothing happened. |

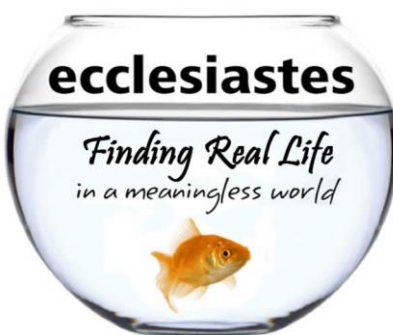
9 I think about my life this way: _____

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | got to take what you can get. |
| <input type="radio"/> | got to stand up for what you believe. |
| <input type="radio"/> | got all the time in the world. |

10 Finally, when I took this quiz... _____

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| <input type="radio"/> | I thought about spending more time with certain people. |
| <input type="radio"/> | being with someone for the rest of my life |
| <input type="radio"/> | bungee/sky diving/mountain climbing |
| <input type="radio"/> | investigating a strange noise |
| <input type="radio"/> | finding a hobby |
| <input type="radio"/> | Catching up with an old friend |

Pastor Hank's Notes on: Ecclesiastes Or, The Preacher



Ecclesiastes 2

Chapter 2 Outline: Investigation of Pleasure-Seeking, verses 1–11, Investigation of Wisdom and Folly, verses 12–17, Investigation-Reflection of Labor and Rewards, verses 18–23, The Preacher's conclusion of his search, verses 24–26.

Ecclesiastes 2 King James Version

Verse 1

1 I said in mine heart, Go to now, I will prove thee with mirth, therefore enjoy pleasure: and, behold, this also is vanity.

I said in mine heart, Go to now... Solomon's talking to himself again... In chapter one Solomon looked for the meaning of life in wisdom - wisdom as it can be understood apart from God. He's found no meaning in life **living under the sun**. Now he continues his search for meaning, and tests a life of pleasures and amusements.

"The Preacher is not testing pleasure so much as himself." - Michael Eaton, Bible Commentator

I will prove thee with mirth... Mirth = Pleasure and amusement through laughter or jokes. Solomon is looking for fulfillment of life through **mirth**: laughter and jokes.

Solomon also said in:

Proverbs 14:13

¹³ Even in laughter the heart is sorrowful; and the end of that **mirth** is heaviness.

Solomon doesn't seem like a funny guy... He's too negative...

therefore enjoy pleasure... Solomon also gonna try **pleasure**. Man is a lover of pleasure.

2 Timothy 3:4

⁴ Traitors, heady, highminded, **lovers of pleasures** more than lovers of God;

Word Study: Pleasure in The Bible:

1. Pleasure means: Enjoyment; that which pleases. Not all Pleasure is bad.

Deuteronomy 23:24

²⁴ When thou comest into thy neighbour's vineyard, then thou mayest eat grapes thy fill at thine own **pleasure**; but thou shalt not put any in thy vessel.

2. The word “pleasure” is used to describe lawful enjoyment.

Genesis 18:12

¹² Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?

As well as unlawful

2 Thessalonians 2:12

¹² That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had **pleasure** in unrighteousness.



3. All things were created for God’s pleasure, for **His** Enjoyment; that which pleases.

Revelation 4:11

¹¹ Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy **pleasure** they are and were created.

This is why God created us. He created us to love Him and worship Him. He created mankind with a soul that has the capability to love God just as God loves us. God desires for His unique creation, mankind, to freely love Him. The wonderful phrase and for thy pleasure they are and were created reminds us that we each exist to give glory and pleasure to God. Until we do that, we don’t fulfill our created purpose.

Pleasure also means:

4. Will; intention; purpose.

Ezra 5:17

¹⁷ Now therefore, if it seem good to the king, let there be search made in the king's treasure house, which is there at Babylon, whether it be so, that a decree was made of Cyrus the king to build this house of God at Jerusalem, and let the king send his **pleasure** to us concerning this matter.

5. Good will; favour.

Psalms 30:5

⁵ For his anger endureth but a moment; in his **favour** is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.

The KJV translates רצון Strong's H7522 in the following manner:

favour (15x), will (14x), acceptable (8x), delight (5x), pleasure (5x), accepted (4x), desire (3x), acceptance (1x), selfwill (1x).

Verse 2

² **I said of laughter, It is mad:** and of mirth, **What doeth it?**

I said of laughter, It is mad... This speaks of laughing on the surface, but your heart is crying. Laughter is but for a moment. Solomon had realized that behind laughter can be a tremendous amount of pain, Most of us have ran into people who try to laugh everything away. Everything is a joke, the response to even the most serious questions of life is some silly or frivolous answer.

Solomon also wrote (negatively) in:

Ecclesiastes 7:3

³ Sorrow is better than laughter: for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better.

What doeth it?... The rhetorical question here verse has negative intent. It simply means that mirth and laughter accomplish absolutely nothing; vanity...



Just because Solomon's depressed, doesn't mean we have to be depressed! Maybe when he was younger he liked to laugh... I like humor, I like to laugh!



"Sorry to keep you both waiting out here.
Where's your wife?"

"He was very romantic when we first got married, but you know how men change."



"Pretend you're a purse snatcher...
I wanna try something."

"Got it!"

Are you laughing?

Verse 3

³ **I sought in mine heart to give myself unto wine**, yet acquainting mine heart with wisdom; and to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was that good for the sons of men, which they should do under the heaven all the days of their life.

Dual application:

unto wine... To gratify himself with delicious meats and drinks. We say “We’re gonna wine and dine tonight.”

I sought in mine heart to give myself unto wine... Solomon gonna try Booze! Many people, in our society today, drink alcohol and take drugs to hide from the realities of life. They feel that for a moment, the deadening will help them to forget their sorrows. It really does not work. When the effects are gone, they are even more depressed than when they began. This is what Solomon discovered, here, as well. Solomon could not arrive at satisfaction, **by mixing wine and wisdom together....**



It was also Solomon wrote about Wine in:

Proverbs 23:31-33

³¹ Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright.

³² At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.

People will ask what's wrong with drinking wine, especially if they don't get drunk on it. Solomon says in the end it (wine) bites like a snake and poisons like a viper. Every alcoholic started first by drinking just a little alcohol, but their taste buds got poisoned by alcohol to the point where they can't live without drinking.

Not only does alcohol promise people happiness, but it repays them with sorrows, strife, complaints, needless bruises, and redness of eyes. It is alcohol that has caused a lot of young women to lose their virginity to guys they never even loved, all because alcohol made their "**heart shall utter perverse things**" (Proverbs 23:33). A very high number of divorces have been caused directly or indirectly by alcohol. There are wives who hate pay days because they know that it's the day when they won't see their husbands until the next morning, as alcohol will be consuming their husbands' paychecks & lives.

³³ Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and **thine heart shall utter perverse things**.

Solomon calls all people who drink wine, beers and all forms of alcohol as foolish.

Proverbs 20:1

1 Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.

The search for meaning in work and accomplishments, verses 4-8:

Verse 4

⁴ I made me great works; I builded me houses; I planted me vineyards:

Solomon inherited the vineyards of his father David and also had his own (1 Chronicles 27:27-28; Song of Solomon 8:10-11).

Verse 5

⁵ I made me gardens and orchards, and I planted trees in them of all kind of fruits:

The "gardens and orchards" of this section were large and enclosed parks for private use, which included all kinds of trees and even animals for hunting. Solomon, like the Persian kings had his own private reserve.

Verse 6

⁶ I made me pools of water, to water therewith the wood that bringeth forth trees:

Various "pools" which Solomon built have been found. Not far from Bethlehem three such pools, located on separate levels still exist to this day. All are roughly rectangular, the largest measures 200 ft. wide, 600 ft. long and 50 ft. deep.

"The king [Solomon] himself rode upon a chariot in the midst of these men, who were still in armor, and had their bows fitted to them. He had on a white garment, and used to take his progress

out of the city in the morning. There was a certain place, about fifty furlongs distant from Jerusalem, which is called Etam, very pleasant it is in fine gardens, and abounding in rivulets of water; thither did he use to go out in the morning, sitting on high [in his chariot]. (Josephus, Antiquities 8.186)



Solomon's Pools 1890-1905 photo.

Solomon's Pools today.



The Preacher looked not only for meaning in amusements, but also in great and legitimate accomplishments. He tried to give life meaning through the satisfaction that comes through building and organizing and improving one's environment. Solomon had turned to futile pleasures, he now gives himself to the joys of creativity.

If building, improving, and amassing great riches and accomplishments could give true meaning to life, the Preacher would have found it!

Solomon threw himself into the joys of creativity. Solomon is like many people, who in their teens or twenties pursued pleasure and having a good time, in their thirties try to find fulfillment in building a house, remodeling, landscaping, building a fish pond in the backyard, or whatever the latest home improvement idea might be.

Here in these verses no mention is made of the Temple, because Solomon is discussing those things he planned and designed for his own personal use. Solomon's house is described in 1 Kings 7.

Basically, Solomon built whatever he wanted to build!

Verse 7

⁷ **I got me servants and maidens**, and had servants born in my house; also **I had great possessions of great and small cattle above all that were in Jerusalem before me:**

I got me servants and maidens... And where did Solomon get them from?

1 Kings 9:20-21

²⁰ And all the people that were left of the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites, which were not of the children of Israel,

²¹ Their children that were left after them in the land, whom the children of Israel also were not able utterly to destroy, **upon those did Solomon levy a tribute of bondservice unto this day.**

Any big King requires "staff". Gardeners, cooks, butlers, hired hands, etc...

What it typically took to feed Solomon and his "inner" kingdom:

1 Kings 4:22 says:

²² And Solomon's provision for one day was thirty measures of fine flour, and threescore measures of meal,

60 measures of meal or 28,000 pounds of bread were baked for the household of Solomon each and every day! From these figures it appears that the household of Solomon (his wives, their children, their servants and all his servants) included at least 14,000 people!

He got some supplies from:

2 Kings 3:4

⁴ And Mesha king of Moab was a sheepmaster, and rendered unto the king of Israel an hundred thousand lambs, and an hundred thousand rams, with the wool.

I had great possessions of great and small cattle above all that were in Jerusalem before me...

Oxen, cows, horses, asses, camels, mules, &c. also sheep and goats; which, so it was pleasant to Solomon to see them grazing on the hills and valleys, in the fields, mountains, and meadows around Jerusalem.

Verse 8

⁸ I gathered me also silver and gold, and the peculiar treasure of kings and of the provinces: I gat me men singers and women singers, and the delights of the sons of men, as musical instruments, and that of all sorts.

I gathered me also silver and gold, and the peculiar treasure of kings... Solomon, besides being the wisest man, was also the richest man.

1 Kings 10:14

¹⁴ Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was six hundred threescore and six talents of gold,

He received **666** talents of gold yearly. That's about 730,000 ounces of gold per year!

2 Chronicles 9:20

²⁰ And all the drinking vessels of king Solomon were of gold, and all the vessels of the house of the forest of Lebanon were of pure gold: none were of silver; it was not any thing accounted of in the days of Solomon.

I gat me men singers and women singers, and the delights of the sons of men, as musical instruments, and that of all sorts...

Solomon got himself singing men and singing women who in view here, not as belonging to the Temple Service but as connected with the festivities of the court and entertaining the king.



Ephesians 5:18-19

¹⁸ And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

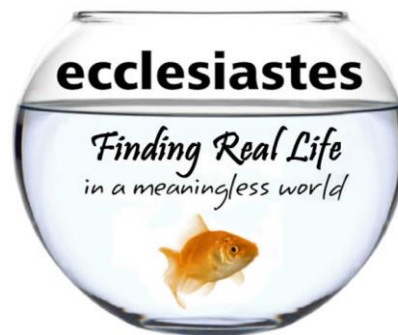
¹⁹ Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

Concluding Thoughts:

In these eight verses Solomon tried or obtained: Humor, Pleasures, Wine, Laughter, Great Works of Construction, Servants and Maids, Great Possessions, Herds of Animals, Gold and Silver, Men and Women Singers and the question so far: "Is he happy or has he found wisdom or is it all vanity?"

It's been said that it took Solomon seven years to build the Temple for The LORD, then spent the rest of his life building himself. Any thoughts?...

Pastor Hank's Notes on: Ecclesiastes Or, The Preacher



Ecclesiastes 2

Chapter 2 Outline: Investigation of Pleasure-Seeking, verses 1–11, Investigation of Wisdom and Folly, verses 12–17, Investigation-Reflection of Labor and Rewards, verses 18–23, The Preacher's conclusion of his search, verses 24–26.

Ecclesiastes 2 King James Version

Verse 9, Continuing Investigation of Pleasure-Seeking...

⁹ So I was great, and increased more than all that were before me in Jerusalem: also my wisdom remained with me.

and increased more than all that were before me in Jerusalem... Solomon increased in wealth and fame more than the previous Kings and **all that were before me in Jerusalem**, including those private citizens in Jerusalem who were also wealthy and famous.

also my wisdom remained with me... Solomon a James Bond type of character. He did everything perfectly (from a human standpoint). He was Mr. Cool. From a human standpoint he appeared to be completely together, always one step ahead of everyone else, on the cutting edge, always leading the trend and never following through his **wisdom**.

Verse 10

¹⁰ And whatsoever mine eyes **desired** I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour.

We see, in this, a fulfillment of every earthly desire that any person could imagine was Solomon's. Everything he saw with his eyes he **desired**. Everything Solomon labored at, he prospered.

Verse 11

¹¹ Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, **behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun.**

Solomon really looked at what he had accomplished and honestly realized that none of this had given him what he was really looking for: lasting happiness, real satisfaction, true meaning and purpose for his existence. The answer was clear, **behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun.**

Verse 12, Investigation of Wisdom and Folly, verses 12–17:

¹² And I turned myself to behold wisdom, and madness, and folly: **for what can the man do that cometh after the king?** even that which hath been already done.

The Preacher continued to search after meaning and life, and followed the lines of wisdom and madness and folly further than he had previously done, unto their ending point of vanity.

for what can the man do that cometh after the king?... Solomon here spoke of *himself* as the son of David (Ecclesiastes 1:1); yet he also spoke of his own successor (who turned out to be Rehoboam, 1 Kings 11:43). Of both, Solomon understood that the new king can do only what he has already done. Even for a king, there is nothing new under the sun (Ecclesiastes 1:9).

Verse 13

¹³ Then I saw that wisdom excelleth folly, as far as light excelleth darkness.

Yes, wisdom, prudence, caution, common-sense, wise planning and light has its advantages over folly and darkness (but for how long?). As a Christian, this should always be the case.

It was also Solomon who wrote: Proverbs 4:18-19

¹⁸ But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

¹⁹ The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble.

Verse 14

¹⁴ The wise man's eyes are in his head; but the fool walketh in darkness: and **I myself perceived also that one event happeneth to them all.**

First, there is a contrast between persons. We have before us the believer in God and the unbeliever, the child of light and the child of darkness, the converted and the unconverted, the spiritual and the natural. Whatever may be their state of knowledge or ignorance, of wealth or poverty, in the sense of the Bible of truth, and in the judgment of the God of truth, the one is wise and the other a fool. But,

I myself perceived also that one event happeneth to them all... No matter how wise one is or is not; how much they do or do not accomplish; or how much pleasure one has or does not have, the same event happens to them all: Life, death etc...

Matthew 5:45

⁴⁵ That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: **for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.**

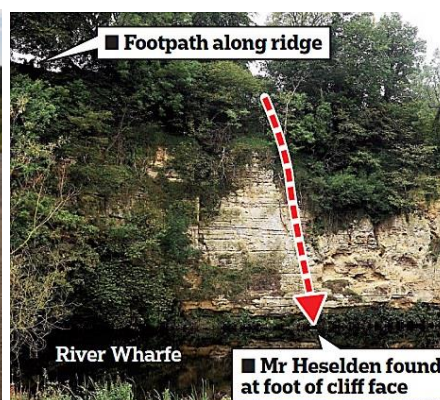
Verse 15

¹⁵ 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.

As it happens to the fool, it also happens to Solomon, and why was Solomon more wise? Things happen to everybody... I wonder how many successful people, how many really famous people have thought the same thing? If this life is really all there is, then in the end the fool and the wise man are equal! Life and death and events happens to everyone regardless if you're a fool or wise man.



A British Millionaire businessman who bought the Segway company less than a year ago died after riding one of the scooters off a cliff and into a river near his Yorkshire estate. Jim Heselden, known locally as Jimi, acquired the Segway company from its U.S. inventor Dean Kamen in December 2009. According to the British media, Heselden, 62, plunged into the River Wharfe while riding a rugged country version of the two-wheeled transporter on Sunday.



Verse 16

¹⁶ For there is no remembrance of the wise more than of the fool for ever; seeing that which now is in the days to come shall all be forgotten. And how dieth the wise man? as the fool.

The wise and the fool are equally subject to death; and, in most instances, they are equally forgotten. Time sweeps away all remembrances, except the very few out of millions which are preserved for a while in the page of history.

At times history will remember the fool and forget the wise man. Solomon has no illusions! This is indeed the last grasp and hope of the successful person who doesn't believe in God: "Maybe I can do something by which all future generations will remember me and in that way continue to live on".

Hebrews 9:27

²⁷ And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:



It is appointed for men, wise or unwise to die. Wisdom cannot secure a man from dying; and then wise and fools are reduced to the same condition and circumstances; all a man's learning, knowledge, and wisdom, cease when he dies, and he is just as another man is; in that day all his learned thoughts perish, and he is upon a level with the fool. Solomon, the wisest of men, died as others. But this is not true of one that is spiritually wise, or wise unto salvation; the death of a righteous man is different from the death of a wicked man; both die, yet not alike, not in like manner; the good man dies in Christ, he dies in faith, has hope in his death, and rises again to eternal life.

Verse 17

¹⁷ **Therefore I hated life;** because the work that is wrought under the sun **is grievous unto me:** for all is vanity and vexation of spirit.

Therefore I hated life... Here is why some people end up old and grumpy. Old age, regrets...

is grievous unto me... All his money couldn't keep him from dying, and neither could he permanently hold on to any of this wealth or pleasures.

for all is vanity and vexation of spirit... How many atheists and hedonists have there been who have wished that they had never been born; and how many of the thousands of suicides every year are the result of a life lived without God, and which they have found to be grievous, empty, painful and profitless.

Thomas Hobbes, the political philosopher and sceptic who corrupted some of England's great men: "If I had the whole world, I would give anything to live one day. I shall be glad to find a hole to creep out of the world at. I am about to take a fearful leap in the dark!"

John Wilkes Booth, who assassinated Abraham Lincoln: "Useless! Useless! The terrors before me!"

Voltaire, the most influential atheist of Europe in his day, cried out with his dying breath: "I am abandoned by God and man; I shall go to hell! I will give you half of what I am worth, if you will give me six months life."

Verse 18, Investigation-Reflection of Labor and Rewards, verses 18–23:

¹⁸ Yea, **I hated all my labour** which I had taken under the sun: **because I should leave it unto the man that shall be after me.**

I hated all my labour... Solomon grows bitter and cynical.

because I should leave it unto the man that shall be after me... Death robs a man of all the fruits of his labor. Everything he has worked so hard for-would end up in the hands of someone else.

The idea that Solomon might leave all his work and material wealth to a fool seemed to trouble him. This concern was well founded, because after Solomon's death, Rehoboam turned out to be a fool in many ways (1 Kings 12:1-33, 1 Kings 14:21-31). Under the stupid government of his son Rehoboam, his fool of a son soon liquidated the once-powerful empire of his father; and when Shishak, king of Egypt, came up and captured Jerusalem, even the gold-plated treasures of the sacred Temple itself were carried away to Egypt.

Solomon also wrote in **Proverbs 27:24**

²⁴ For riches are not for ever: and doth the crown endure to every generation?

Verse 19

¹⁹ And who knoweth whether he shall be a wise man or a fool? yet shall he have rule over all my labour wherein I have laboured, and wherein I have shewed myself wise under the sun. This is also vanity.

Eventually everything that Solomon had amassed would be wasted, destroyed or lost through the unfaithfulness of the men who followed him as the kings of Israel.



The Vanderbilt's

Several sources cite that when Cornelius “Commodore” Vanderbilt died in 1877, he was already worth \$100 million, which would be roughly \$200 billion today, according to CoinTalk. He started his shipping and railroad business with \$100 that he borrowed from his mother; today there is nothing left of those enterprises, except Vanderbilt University, which he gave \$1 million to help endow and build. What happened?

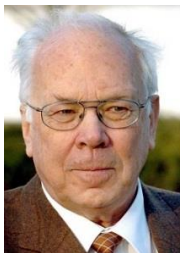
Cornelius is the second richest person in American history, according to CNN Money. Although a number of reports attest to his simple lifestyle, the same can't be said for his heirs. His son William Henry “Billy” Vanderbilt did famously double the family fortune to \$200 million, but his children and grandchildren spent their money on thoroughbred horses and lavish mansions in New York City and Newport, Rhode Island. They didn't protect the family business.

Maybe the Vanderbilt's could've avoided throwing their wealth into the wind if Cornelius had educated his children on the financial aspect of their lives and had a trusted family advisor to make sure that they planned properly to both protect their fortune and the family business for generations to come.

Verse 20

²⁰ Therefore **I went about to cause my heart to despair** of all the labour which I took under the sun.

I went about to cause my heart to despair... Even wealthy people who seemingly have everything to live for (from a human perspective) end up extremely depressed, and finally taking their own lives.



Germany - German billionaire Adolf Merckle, one of the richest men in the world, committed suicide Monday after his business empire got into trouble in the wake of the international financial crisis, Merckle's family said Tuesday in a statement. Merckle, 74, was hit by a train in the southwestern town of Ulm, police said. His family said the economic crisis had “broken” Merckle.

He was number 94 on the Forbes list of the world's richest people. He had fallen from number 44 on the Forbes 2007 rich list as his fortune declined from \$12.8 billion to \$9.2 billion in 2008.



ERNEST HEMINGWAY

The famous author Ernest Hemingway was known for his great literary works, such as "The Sun Also Rises," "A Farewell to Arms" and "For Whom the Bell Tolls."

Hemingway committed suicide by shooting himself in the forehead in the foyer of his Idaho home in July 1961.

Verse 21

²¹ For there is a man whose labour is in wisdom, and in knowledge, and in equity; yet to a man that hath not laboured therein shall he leave it for his portion. This also is **vanity and a great evil**.

This verse describes the intense effort and devotion that Solomon had put into his projects. He had worked hard! This was his life-work, his crowning achievements, things which few men had ever accomplished in life! Solomon had spent an entire lifetime working diligently, perfecting his skills, burning the mid-night oil, improving himself, accumulating a fortune and the thought of his successor getting everything he had earned, without any effort-and maybe evening squandering it, or not appreciating it-is more than he could stand! Not only was it "vanity" it was **vanity and a great evil!**

It seems never to have occurred to Solomon that he should have made himself rich toward God with all that wealth. Instead of that, he spent his last days fretting over whether or not a fool would get everything that his wisdom and labor had produced. And sure enough, the fool got it, and promptly lost it. This is a true description of what has happened to many another vast estate.

Verse 22

²² For what hath man of all his labour, and of the vexation of his heart, wherein he hath laboured under the sun?

There is a certain amount of pride that goes along with the finishing of some important project here on the earth. It is a known fact, that none of that follows us after our death.

The only treasures we carry with us, are those we have stored in heaven before our death. Things we do for ourselves, or for earthly fame, will be of no assistance in heaven. Solomon had great wealth and fame on the earth. All of that is left behind.

Verse 23

²³ For all his days are sorrows, and his travail grief; yea, **his heart taketh not rest in the night**. This is also vanity.

This is indeed an accurate description of people with great possessions whose lives are oriented to this life alone and who neither believe in God nor try to serve him. The result: **sleepless nights**, one headache after another, and endless worry and apprehension.



Remember, Our work is not in vain:

1 Corinthians 15:58

⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Verse 24, The Preacher's conclusion of his search, verses 24-26: Yes there is hope!

In verses 24-26 we find the first of several passages that give one of the solutions to life's problems: Enjoy life and work as God's gifts. When a man toils in his own strength, he is bound to suffer pain and grief. The answer then is for him to enjoy his work by receiving it as a gift of God.

Verse 24

²⁴ There is nothing better for a man, than that he should eat and drink, and that he should make his soul enjoy good in his labour. **This also I saw, that it was from the hand of God.**

It seems that the Preacher advised us how to make the best of a bad situation. If life really is as despairing and meaningless as he has shown it to be, then we should simply accept that true meaning is impossible to find, and simply find contentment in moderate and responsible pleasures.

Solomon isn't saying, "**Eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die**" like the world sings. For he includes **God** in this statement. The idea of telling yourself that your labor is good, is that of realizing that you did accomplish some meaningful things in this life. But this life is only meaningful if God exists in your life!



Going out to eat, having nice things, living in a comfortable house, and other pleasures of this life are great, as long as we understand that they aren't the source of our happiness and neither do they add any meaning to our lives. They are simply things, which we appreciate, but which we could also live without and still be completely happy. The verse and context also point out that only God can really enable us to enjoy the things of this life. The Christian, while not being covetous, greedily or materialistic, truly enjoys the nice "things" of this life more than the lost.

We should be thankful for whatever God has provided us with. We should be like Paul and be satisfied with what God has given us.

1 Timothy 6:6-12

⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain.

⁷ For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

⁸ And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

⁹ But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

¹⁰ For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

¹¹ But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

¹² Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

Verse 25

²⁵ For who can eat, or who else can hasten hereunto, more than I?

Peacefulness and true happiness, the kingdom of God, does not consist in meats and drinks. A sinner may believe in the sensualities in his eating, drinking and fun paradise, but no servant of God is a slave to his palate.

Philippians 3:19

¹⁹ Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

Verse 26

²⁶ **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.**

For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy... Remember, **Joy** comes after, not before, wisdom and knowledge.

True goodness:

1. A man may be good **in his own esteem**, and yet not be really so. The way in which we sometimes mistake ourselves is altogether miserable.
2. A man may be good **in the estimate of society**, and yet not be really so.
3. A man may be accepted as good **by the Church**, and yet not be really so. Character also is capable of falsification; we may appear to ourselves and to others brighter and costlier than we naturally are.
4. But they who are good before God are good. He who has the testimony that he pleases God needs no more.

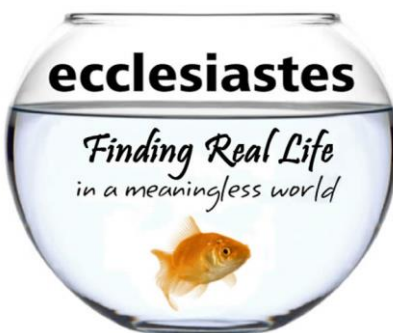
Concluding Thoughts...

God had thought very highly of Solomon. He had loved him so much, that He gave him wisdom above all his fellowmen. He gave him great wealth and tremendous fame. But Solomon did not stay faithful to God. The temptations of life were more than he could handle, and he sinned.

God will abundantly bless those who are in the will of God. The wealth of the sinner is laid up for the righteous. God does not overlook the slightest thing you do to please Him. God is the Rewarder of those who follow Him.

This also is vanity and vexation of spirit... From this chapter it would seem that Solomon is saying, "I walked in the shoes of the sinner! I tried to find happiness in things. And I found it to be a very disappointing, frustrating and miserable experience!"

Pastor Hank's Notes on: Ecclesiastes Or, The Preacher



Ecclesiastes 3

Chapter 3 Outline: A time for every purpose, verses 1-8. God is the Master of Time, verses 9-11. What the Preacher knows, verses 12-15. The problem of injustice, verses 16-17. The common fate of animals and humans under the sun, verses 18-21. Finding peace under the sun verse 22.

Ecclesiastes 3 King James Version (KJV)

Introduction: In the first two chapters of Ecclesiastes, King Solomon presented four arguments that seem to prove that life is really not worth living. Solomon in recording what he's been through.

- (1) The monotony of life (Chapter 1)
- (2) The vanity of wisdom (Chapter 1)
- (3) The futility of wealth (Chapter 2)
- (4) The certainty of death (Chapter 2)

In chapter 3, King Solomon ("the Preacher") teaches that God controls time. God created time, and God controls the seasons.

Genesis 1:14

¹⁴ And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, **and for seasons, and for days, and years:**

The word "time" is found 31 times in Ecclesiastes 3. In verses 2—8, it is found 28 times. These 28 activities represent the whole round of life, beginning with birth (3:1) and ending with peace (3:8). The list is made up of fourteen pairs of opposites – fourteen are positives and fourteen are negatives.

Question: What makes a complete orbit around the Earth approximately once every 28 days?

Answer: _____

A time for every purpose, verses 1-8.

Verse 1

1 To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

This list – describing the different seasons and facets of life – is beautiful. Yet it also casts a dark shadow, because it reminds us of the inevitability of trouble and evil, and of the relentless monotony of life.

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven...

What actually determines the issues of human life?

A countless list of things over which man has no control are, in the final analysis, the true determinators:

- (1) The age into which one is born;
- (2) The place of his birth;
- (3) The ability, wealth, or even the health of his parents;
- (4) Their religion (or lack of it);
- (5) Whether there prevailed war or peace, social, climatic, or geographical conditions;
- (6) The presence or absence of physical or mental handicaps;
- (7) All kinds of accidents which may either enhance or hinder one's efforts to succeed.

All such things are determined by the will of God or our Free Will choices which have consequences. God has set things up so that things happen at certain intervals at certain places at certain times and it's how we react to those events and the next thing you know you've lived a life!

Verse 2

² A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;

A time to be born... None of us asked to be born; it was something done to us, apart from us. We see that we have no control of the day we are born. We have no control of who we are born to. We have no control over our gender. We have no control over the way we look, when we are born. All of these things are destined of God. We could go on and on.

and a time to die... "Your Numbers Up!" None of us ask to die; it is something done to us by God. And it seems as if man had as little control over the one as over the other.

Birth and death, the boundaries of life under the sun... And everything else happens between these two events!

Just a couple of Bible verses for thought:

Jeremiah 1:4-5

⁴ Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

⁵ Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

Job 7:1

1 Is there not an appointed time to man upon earth? are not his days also like the days of an hireling?

Job 14:5

⁵ Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months are with thee, thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass;

Acts 17:26

²⁶ And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;

The next pair deals with the supply of food: “**a time to plant, and a time to pluck up.**” Everything must come in its appropriate time. If you get it out of synch you are in trouble. Try to plant a crop in the middle of winter when snow is on the ground and it will not grow. Half of the problem of life is that we are constantly trying to run this schedule ourselves. But God has already planned the schedule. There is an appropriate time for everything.

**A Few Thoughts on Planting and Harvesting:**

1. You are now in the **Planting Time** of your lives. You have wide possibilities before you, of molding your characters into beauty, and purity, holiness, and strength. You have been Planted and it's Time to grow!

2. One of the Main Jobs of a Christian is that of a Farmer.

Luke 10:2

² Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.

3. When The Lord returns, it'll be “Harvest Time.”

Revelation 14:15

¹⁵ And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.

Verse 3

³ A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

a. A time to kill animals for food.

Genesis 27:3-4

³ Now therefore take, I pray thee, thy weapons, thy quiver and thy bow, and go out to the field, and take me some venison;

⁴ And make me savoury meat, such as I love, and bring it to me, that I may eat; that my soul may bless thee before I die.

b. A time to kill - execute criminals.

Romans 13:4

⁴ For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

c. A time to kill to protect your family from intruders.

Exodus 22:2

² If a thief be found breaking up, and be smitten that he die, there shall no blood be shed for him.

d. A time to kill, War. Romans chapter 13,

Jeremiah 51:20

²⁰ Thou art my battle axe and weapons of war: for with thee will I break in pieces the nations, and with thee will I destroy kingdoms;

Note: In the Bible there is a difference between murder, which is a sin (Exodus 20:13), and killing (Exodus 21:15-16).

** It's sad that people who say: _____ Lives Matter, also think Abortion is OK...

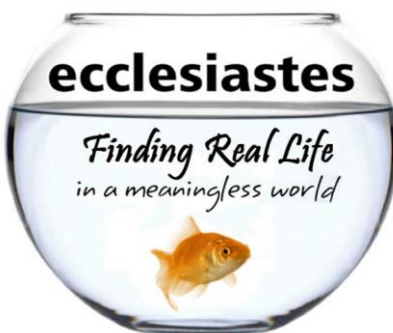
a time to heal... care for the wounded, nurse a sick person or animal back to health.

a time to break down, and a time to build up...

Which is often something that we dislike. When old familiar landmarks are torn down in the name of progress. But these are things which cannot be stopped. Eventually, even the most beautiful and meaningful structures will find themselves replaced. This also applies to nations (Jeremiah 18).



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This list – describing the different seasons and facets of life – is beautiful. Yet it also casts a dark shadow, because it reminds us of the inevitability of trouble and evil, and of the relentless monotony of life. These verses indicate that today's positive act will eventually be balanced by tomorrow's negative. As surely as we are born, we must one day die. So far we've looked at:

Verse 2

² A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;

Verse 3

³ A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

Ecclesiastes 3 King James Version (KJV)

The human heart must vent its emotions, and they must have appropriate expression:

Verse 4

⁴ A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

A time to weep... A time to weep over the loss of a loved one, **A time to weep...** over the sins you committed against God

The shortest sentence in the Bible is in **John 11:35** "Jesus wept."

a time to laugh... Sometimes you gotta laugh! Laughter is the best form of medicine.



Proverbs 17:22

²² A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.

St. Joseph's Hospital in Houston opened a "living room" for their cancer patients many years ago. In it there were videotapes and stereos where patients could watch and listen to their favorite comedians and music.

"It works," said Cousins, the former Saturday Review editor who fought bouts of disease with hoots of laughter and wrote about it in "The Anatomy of an Illness as Perceived by the Patient" and "The Healing Heart."

"In Houston," Cousins said, "they're getting results."

The new "Living Room," on the ninth floor with a panoramic view of the city, is an expanded version of a similar room created at St. Joseph's in 1980: a place cancer patients can go to feel good.

Humorous videotapes--Marx Brothers and Pink Panther movies are favorites--play on television, while some patients sit in overstuffed chairs reading from a large selection of funny magazines and entertaining books. Local comedians stop by to tell jokes from time to time, and Marvin Hamlisch has played the room twice. There are also games, but there have yet to be any pie fights.

"I deliberately named it the 'Living Room,' because it is a place for the living," said Dr. John S. Stehlin, head of oncology at St. Joseph's. "We have a lot of dying people come into the Living Room, with IV bottles hanging off their arms, but you wouldn't know it (that they're dying)."

HEALTH BENEFITS OF LAUGHTER

There is already so much to love for laughter that it seems greedy to look for more, but that's exactly what researchers Dr. Lee Berk and Dr. Stanley Tan at the Loma Linda University in California have done. These two doctors have researched the benefits of laughter and found amazing results. Get ready to get your giggle on!

1. LOWERS BLOOD PRESSURE

People who lower their blood pressure, even those who start at normal levels, will reduce their risk of stroke and heart attack. So grab the Sunday paper, flip to the funny pages, and enjoy your laughter medicine.

2. REDUCES STRESS HORMONE LEVELS

By reducing the level of stress hormones, you're simultaneously cutting the anxiety and stress that impacts your body. Additionally, the reduction of stress hormones may result in higher immune system performance. Just think: Laughing along as a co-worker tells a funny joke can relieve some of the day's stress and help you reap the health benefits of laughter.

3. WORKS YOUR ABS

One of the benefits of laughter is that it can help you tone your abs. When you are laughing, the muscles in your stomach expand and contract, similar to when you intentionally exercise your abs.

Meanwhile, the muscles you are not using to laugh are getting an opportunity to relax. Add laughter to your ab routine and make getting a toned tummy more enjoyable.

4. IMPROVES CARDIAC HEALTH

Laughter is a great cardio workout, especially for those who are incapable of doing other physical activity due to injury or illness. It gets your heart pumping and burns a similar amount of calories per hour as walking at a slow to moderate pace. So, laugh your heart into health.

5. BOOSTS T-CELLS

T-cells are specialized immune system cells just waiting in your body for activation. When you laugh, you activate T-cells that immediately begin to help you fight off sickness. Next time you feel a cold coming on, add chuckling to your illness prevention plan.

6. TRIGGERS THE RELEASE OF ENDORPHINS

Endorphins are the body's natural painkillers. By laughing, you can release endorphins, which can help ease chronic pain and make you feel good all over.

7. PRODUCES A GENERAL SENSE OF WELL-BEING

Laughter can increase your overall sense of well-being. Doctors have found that people who have a positive outlook on life tend to fight diseases better than people who tend to be more negative. So smile, laugh, and live longer!

According to Helpguide.org:

Laughter lightens anger's heavy load. Nothing diffuses anger and conflict faster than a shared laugh. Looking at the funny side can put problems into perspective and enable you to move on from confrontations without holding onto bitterness or resentment.

Laughter may even help you to live longer. A study in Norway found that people with a strong sense of humor outlived those who don't laugh as much. The difference was particularly notable for those battling cancer.

Laughter relaxes the whole body. A good, hearty laugh relieves physical tension and stress, leaving your muscles relaxed for up to 45 minutes after.

Laughter helps you stay emotionally healthy:

Laughter makes you feel good. And the good feeling that you get when you laugh remains with you even after the laughter subsides. Humor helps you keep a positive, optimistic outlook through difficult situations, disappointments, and loss.

More than just a break from sadness and pain, laughter gives you the courage and strength to find new sources of meaning and hope. Even in the most difficult of times, a laugh—or even simply a smile—can go a long way toward making you feel better. And laughter really is contagious—just hearing laughter primes your brain and readies you to smile and join in the fun.

The link between laughter and mental health:

Laughter dissolves distressing emotions. You can't feel anxious, angry, or sad when you're laughing.

Laughter helps you relax and recharge. It reduces stress and increases energy, enabling you to stay focused and accomplish more.

Humor shifts perspective, allowing you to see situations in a more realistic, less threatening light. A humorous perspective creates psychological distance, which can help you avoid feeling overwhelmed and diffuse conflict.

Laughter draws you closer to others, and increasing social engagement can have a profound effect on all aspects of your mental and emotional health.

The social benefits of humor and laughter:

There's a good reason why TV sitcoms use laugh tracks: laughter is contagious. You're many times more likely to laugh around other people than when you're alone. And the more laughter you bring into your own life, the happier others around you will feel.

Sharing humor is half the fun—in fact, most laughter doesn't come from hearing jokes, but rather simply from spending time with friends and family. And it's this social aspect that plays such an important role in the health benefits of laughter. You can't enjoy a laugh with other people unless you take the time to really engage with them. When you care about someone enough to switch off your phone and really connect face to face, you're engaging in a process that rebalances the nervous system and puts the brakes on defensive stress responses like “fight or flight.” And if you share a laugh as well, you'll both feel happier, more positive, and more relaxed—even if you're unable to alter the stressful situation itself.

Laughing and relationships

Shared laughter is one of the most effective tools for keeping relationships fresh and exciting. All emotional sharing builds strong and lasting relationship bonds, but sharing laughter also adds joy, vitality, and resilience. And humor is a powerful and effective way to heal resentments, disagreements, and hurts. Laughter unites people during difficult times.

Incorporating more humor and play into your daily interactions can improve the quality of your love relationships—as well as your connections with co-workers, family members, and friends. Using humor and laughter in relationships allows you to:

Be more spontaneous. Humor gets you out of your head and away from your troubles.

Let go of defensiveness. Laughter helps you forget resentments, judgments, criticisms, and doubts.

Release inhibitions. Your fear of holding back and holding on are set aside.

Express your true feelings. Deeply felt emotions are allowed to rise to the surface.

Nothing balances your nervous system faster than communicating face-to-face with another person. **Add laughter** to that communication and you have a powerful antidote to stress, anxiety, pain, and conflict. Humor lightens your burdens, inspires hopes, connects you to others, and keeps you grounded, focused, and alert. It also helps you to release anger and be more forgiving.

With so much power to heal and renew, the ability to laugh easily and frequently is a tremendous resource for surmounting problems, enhancing your relationships, and supporting both physical and emotional health.

How to Develop Your Sense of Humor:

Laugh at yourself. Share your embarrassing moments. The best way to take yourself less seriously is to talk about times when you took yourself too seriously.

Attempt to laugh at situations rather than bemoan them. Look for the humor in a bad situation, and uncover the irony and absurdity of life. When something negative happens, try to find a way to make it a humorous anecdote that will make others laugh.

Surround yourself with reminders to lighten up. Keep a toy on your desk or in your car. Put up a funny poster in your office. Choose a computer screensaver that makes you laugh. Frame photos of you and your family or friends having fun.

Remember funny things that happen. If something amusing happens or you hear a joke or funny story you really like, write it down or tell it to someone else to help you remember it.

Don't dwell on the negative. Try to avoid negative people, those who are unable to see the humor in any situation, and don't dwell on news stories, entertainment, or conversations that make you sad or unhappy. Many things in life are beyond your control—particularly the behavior of other people. While you might think taking the weight of the world on your shoulders is admirable, in the long run it's unrealistic and unhealthy.

Find your inner child. Pay attention to children and try to emulate them—after all, they are the experts on playing, taking life lightly, and laughing at ordinary things.

Deal with your stress. One great technique to relieving stress in the moment is to draw upon a favorite memory that always makes you smile—something your kids did, for example, or something funny a friend told you. While stress can be a major impediment to humor and laughter, laughter can also be a great stress reliever.

Don't go a day without laughing. Think of it like exercise or breakfast and make a conscious effort to find something each day that makes you laugh. Set aside 10 to 15 minutes and do something that amuses you. The more you get used to laughing each day, the less effort you'll have to make.

Bringing more laughter into your life:

Want more laughter in your life? Get a pet...



Most of us have experienced the joy of playing with a furry friend, and pets are a rewarding way to bring more laughter and joy into your life. But did you know that having a pet is good for your mental and physical health? Studies show that pets can protect you depression, stress, and even heart disease.

Laughter is your birthright, a natural part of life that is innate and inborn. Infants begin smiling during the first weeks of life and laugh out loud within months of being born. Even if you did not grow up in a household where laughter was a common sound, you can learn to laugh at any stage of life.

Begin by setting aside special times to seek out humor and laughter, as you might with working out, and build from there. Eventually, you'll want to incorporate humor and laughter into the fabric of your life, finding it naturally in everything you do.

Here are some ways to start:

Smile. Smiling is the beginning of laughter and like laughter, it's contagious. When you look at someone or see something even mildly pleasing, practice smiling. Instead of looking down at your phone, look up and smile at people you pass in the street, the person serving you a morning coffee, or the co-workers you share an elevator with. Notice the effect this has on others.

Count your blessings. Literally make a list. The simple act of considering the good things in your life will distance you from negative thoughts that are a barrier to humor and laughter. When you're in a state of sadness, you have further to travel to get to humor and laughter.

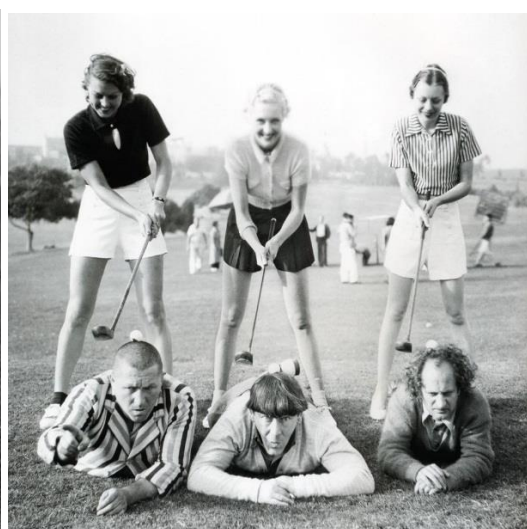
When you hear laughter, move toward it. Sometimes humor and laughter are private, a shared joke among a small group, but usually not. More often, people are very happy to share something funny because it gives them an opportunity to laugh again and feed off the humor you find in it. When you hear laughter, seek it out and ask, "What's funny?"

Spend time with fun, playful people. These are people who laugh easily—both at themselves and at life's absurdities—and who routinely find the humor in everyday events. Their playful point of view and laughter are contagious. Even if you don't consider yourself a lighthearted, humorous person, you can still seek out people who like to laugh and make others laugh. Every comedian appreciates an audience.

Bring humor into conversations. Ask people, "What's the funniest thing that happened to you today? This week? In your life?"

Creating opportunities to laugh:

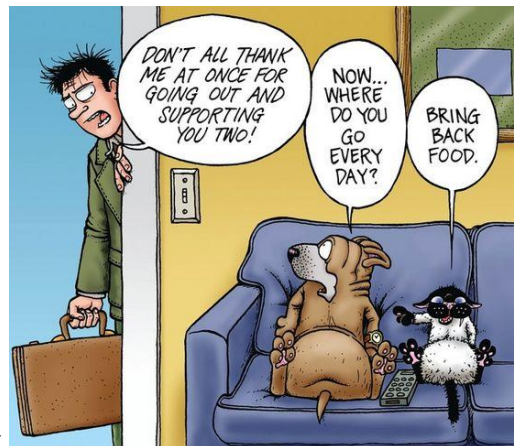
- Watch a funny movie, TV show, or YouTube video



- Read the Comic pages. **Calvin and Hobbes:**



Get Fuzzy





"There! Aren't you glad I made you wear your seat belt?"

"I've spent three dollars in this thing waiting for you!"

- Seek out funny people
- Share a good joke or a funny story
- Check out your bookstore's humor section
- Host game night with friends
- Play with a pet
- Goof around with children
- Do something silly
- Make time for fun activities (e.g. bowling, miniature golfing, karaoke)

You can't laugh all the time...

a time to mourn... Namely, for the dead.

Genesis 23:2

² And Sarah died in Kirjatharba; the same is Hebron in the land of Canaan: and Abraham came to **mourn** for Sarah, and to **weep** for her.

James 4:9

⁹ Be afflicted, and **mourn, and weep**: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness.

a time to dance... David, when he danced before the Ark of the Covenant:

2 Samuel 6:14-15

¹⁴ And David **danced** before the LORD with all his might; and David was girded with a linen ephod.

¹⁵ So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.

Dancing in The Bible:

First Dancing in The Bible was for Praising God:

Exodus 15:21-22

²¹ And Miriam answered them, Sing ye to the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.

²² So Moses brought Israel from the Red sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness, and found no water.

First mixed Dancing in The Bible was for Praising False Gods:

The First time The Ten Commandments were broken, we're at a Mixed Dance...

Exodus 32:19-23

¹⁹ And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the calf, and the dancing: and Moses' anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount.

²⁰ And he took the calf which they had made, and burnt it in the fire, and ground it to powder, and strawed it upon the water, and made the children of Israel drink of it.

²¹ And Moses said unto Aaron, What did this people unto thee, that thou hast brought so great a sin upon them?

²² And Aaron said, Let not the anger of my lord wax hot: thou knowest the people, that they are set on mischief.

²³ For they said unto me, Make us gods, which shall go before us: for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.

When a Soul got Saved there was Dancing!

Luke 15:24-25

²⁴ For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

²⁵ Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard musick and **dancing**.

We Dance while Praising God:

Psalms 150

¹ Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power.

² Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness.

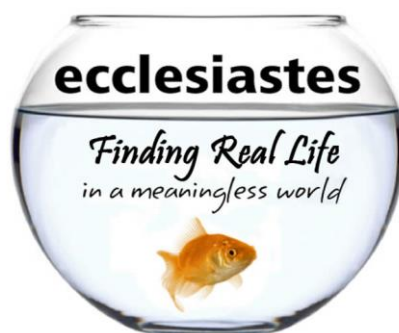
³ Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp.

⁴ Praise him with the timbrel and **dance**: praise him with stringed instruments and organs.

⁵ Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals.

⁶ Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.

Pastor Hank's Notes on: Ecclesiastes Or, The Preacher



Ecclesiastes 3

Chapter 3 Outline: A time for every purpose, verses 1-8. God is the Master of Time, verses 9-11. What the Preacher knows, verses 12-15. The problem of injustice, verses 16-17. The common fate of animals and humans under the sun, verses 18-21. Finding peace under the sun verse 22.

In chapter 3, King Solomon ("the Preacher") teaches that God controls time. God created time, and God controls the seasons.

Genesis 1:14

¹⁴ And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, **and for seasons, and for days, and years:**

The word "time" is found 31 times in Ecclesiastes 3. In verses 2—8, it is found 28 times. These 28 activities represent the whole round of life, beginning with birth (3:1) and ending with peace (3:8). The list is made up of fourteen pairs of opposites – fourteen are positives and fourteen are negatives.

This list – describing the different seasons and facets of life – is beautiful. Yet it also casts a dark shadow, because it reminds us of the inevitability of trouble and evil, and of the relentless monotony of life. These verses indicate that today's positive act will eventually be balanced by tomorrow's negative. As surely as we are born, we must one day die.

Verse 5

⁵ A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

A time to cast away stones... The destruction of a house, building, wall, City, etc...

Leviticus 14:45

⁴⁵ And he shall break down the house, **the stones of it**, and the timber thereof, and all the mortar of the house; and he shall carry them forth out of the city into an unclean place.

In Bible times they commonly scattered (**cast away**) stones on an enemies' land to hinder farming.

2 Kings 3:19

¹⁹ And ye shall smite every fenced city, and every choice city, and shall fell every good tree, and stop all wells of water, **and mar every good piece of land with stones.**

and a time to gather stones together... As in the building of homes, forts, castles, colleges, bridges, walls, tombstone, monuments, altars, etc...

1 Kings 18:32

³² And with the **stones he built an altar** in the name of the LORD: and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed.

A time to gather stones together: Berlin Wall 1961-62



A time to cast away stones: Berlin Wall 1989



It was Solomon's father David who gathered stones to defeat the enemy of God!

1 Samuel 17:40

⁴⁰ And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth **stones** out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling was in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine.

a time to embrace... Embracing is a way of showing passion, or affection.

In The Old Testament a newly married man was exempt from war for one year, so he could embrace his wife!

Deuteronomy 24:5

⁵ When a man hath taken a new wife, he shall not go out to war, neither shall he be charged with any business: but he shall be free at home one year, **and shall cheer up his wife** which he hath taken.

Solomon wrote in **Song of Solomon 8:3**

³ His left hand should be under my head, and his right hand should **embrace** me.

Embracing isn't just between husbands and wives, we can embrace each other!

2 Corinthians 13:12

¹² Greet one another with an holy kiss.

Question: "What exactly is a 'holy kiss'?"

Answer: There are four places in the New Testament that refer to the "holy kiss"—Romans 16:16; 1 Corinthians 16:20; 2 Corinthians 13:12; and 1 Thessalonians 5:26. In each instance, the Greek words denote a kiss which is sacred—physically pure and morally blameless. It was a common custom in most nations for people to kiss each other at meeting or parting to display their love, sincere affection, and friendship for each other. The kiss is called "holy" to distinguish it from a sexual one and from a hypocritical and deceitful one, such as Joab gave to Amasa (2 Samuel 20:9) or such as Judas gave to Jesus when he cried, "Hail Master," and betrayed Him into the hands of His enemies (Matthew 26:49).

In New Testament times, the holy kiss was a sign of greeting, much like the modern handshake. For Christians, it further expressed brotherly love and unity. The holy kiss was especially precious to the new believers during the early church years, because they were often outcasts from their own families because of their new faith. These new believers gloried in the new spiritual kinship they had found among other Christians. Furthermore, the holy kiss from a Jewish Christian to a Gentile believer was evidence that the Gentiles were accepted fully into Christian fellowship. The holy kiss between the Jewish and Gentile believers was done righteously in recognition that all believers are brothers and sisters in the family of God.

Whether or not the holy kiss should be a tradition we carry on today is not clear in Scripture. Whether or not our greetings to our brothers and sisters in Christ include the holy kiss, the important thing is that our greetings spring from real love and friendship, be characterized by sincerity, and represent true Christian fellowship.

"You kiss my wife and I'll slug you! – Pastor Hank, I mean, Anonymous



and a time to refrain from embracing... Don't embrace false teachings.

Titus 3:10

¹⁰ A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition **reject**;

Whether we like it or not, there will be times that we can't **embrace** with former friends-because of their **unrepentant attitude** (1 Corinthians 5; Matthew 18:15-17). It is a very frustrating reality in life that often we can't be friends with all the people that we would really like to be friends with.

1 Corinthians chapter 5

1 It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife.

2 And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you.

3 For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed,

4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,

5 To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

6 Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?

7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

9 I wrote unto you in an epistle **not to company** with fornicators:

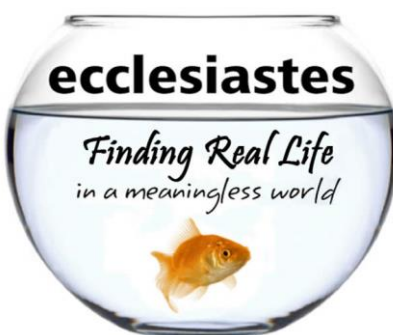
10 Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world.

11 But now I have written unto you **not to keep company**, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolator, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; **with such an one no not to eat**.

12 For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within?

13 But them that are without God judgeth. **Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.**

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Verse 6

⁶ A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

A time to get... Get a job, honest work, make a living, profit. A time to get wisdom and knowledge which Solomon has been writing about in **Ecclesiastes**. A time to get honor and fame.

A time to grow up and **get** out of the house:

Genesis 2:24

²⁴ Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

A time to get God!

Zephaniah 2:3

³ **Seek ye the LORD**, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD's anger.

A time to get right with God by His Son, The Lord Jesus!

1 Thessalonians 5:9

⁹ For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to **obtain** salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

A time to get... Pregnant, A time to get alone, get a Car... A time to get... A LIFE!!

and a time to lose... Lose a job, profit (Stock Market), family, fame, wisdom...

Don't you wish you can know these things in advance?

a time to keep... Keep means: To have or retain possession of. To remain, or continue to be, as specified: The word "Keep" occurs 362 times in 354 verses in the KJV.

We are to Keep:

1. **keep** the sayings of this book, Revelation 22:9
2. **keep** the commandments of God, Revelation 14:12
3. **keep** the unity of the Spirit, Ephesians 4:3
4. **keep** thyself pure, 1 Timothy 5:22
5. **Keep** yourselves in the love of God, Jude 1:21
6. **keep** sound wisdom and discretion, Proverbs 3:21 (Solomon)
7. **Keep** thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life. Proverbs 4:23 (Solomon)

Ask God to **keep** you away from:

8. Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; **keep** the door of my lips, Psalms 141:3
9. **Keep** me from the snares *which* they have laid for me, and the gins of the workers of iniquity. Psalm 141:1
10. **Keep** your Faith!

2 Timothy 4:7-8

⁷ I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have **kept** the faith:

⁸ Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

a time to keep... Keep your Money! Don't give your money to a lazy Christian:

2 Thessalonians 3:10

¹⁰ For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

and a time to cast away... A time to cast away your money! A time to be generous, liberal. God loves a cheerful giver!

2 Corinthians 9:7

⁷ Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, **so let him give**; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth **a cheerful giver**.

A time to cast away:

Luke 19:1-10

¹ And Jesus entered and passed through Jericho.

² And, behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich.

³ And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature.

⁴ And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way.

⁵ And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house.

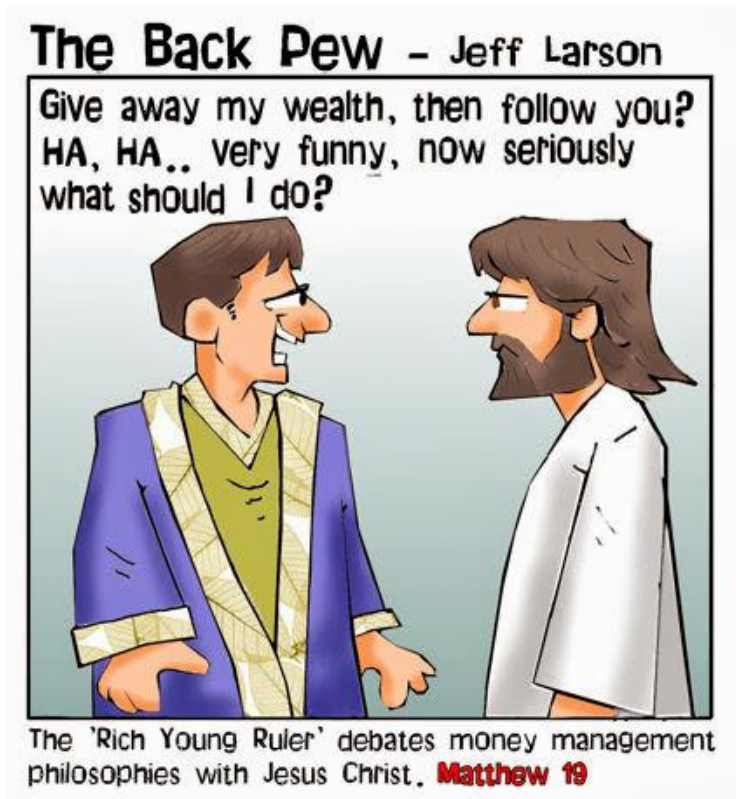
⁶ And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully.

⁷ And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner.

⁸ And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord: Behold, Lord, **the half of my goods I give to the poor**; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, **I restore him fourfold**.

⁹ And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham.

¹⁰ For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.



Verse 7

⁷ A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

A time to rend... This verse refers to actions associated with mourning; tearing one's clothes and remaining silent. It was a Custom of the people in Bible times, it was an emotional reaction... This principle also applies to friendships, relationships and life situations. The rending of garments and sitting down in silence is symbolic of anger or sorrow; the repairing of them and the restarting of conversation is evidence of the relief of sorrow. These are properly grouped in one verse.

Genesis 37:29

²⁹ And Reuben returned unto the pit; and, behold, Joseph was not in the pit; and he **rent** his clothes.

Genesis 37:34

³⁴ And Jacob **rent** his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his loins, and mourned for his son many days.

The Priest **rent** his garments in anger against The Lord Jesus and did not "repair" the situation in Matthew 26:65, and God **rent** the veil of the temple to repair the broken relationship between Himself and man in Matthew 27:51!

and a time to sew... To join together, repair a relationship or friendship.

a time to keep silence... Sometimes you gotta keep quite...

Job 2:13

¹³ So they sat down with him upon the ground seven days and seven nights, **and none spake a word unto him:** for they saw that his grief was very great.

Why Complaining May Be Dangerous To Your Health (fastcompany.com)

A half hour of complaining every day physically damages a person's brain, according to research from Stanford University. Whether you're the one griping or you're the one listening, exposure to negativity peels back neurons in the hippocampus—the part of the brain used for problem solving and cognitive function. Over time, complaining becomes a habit. If you're surrounded by complainers, then you're more likely become one.

"As a society, we complain too much, but more importantly we don't complain effectively," says Guy Winch, PhD and author of The Squeaky Wheel. "We've lost a sense of what complaining is for; instead, we use it as an exercise for venting and that has consequences."

Winch explains venting causes two problems. "Research has found that 95% of consumers who have a problem with a product don't complain to the company, but they will tell their tale to eight to 16 people," he says. "It's unproductive because we're not complaining to the people who can resolve our issue."

Venting also floods the bloodstream with cortisol, the stress hormone. "We tell ourselves that we need to get it off our chest, but each time we do, we get upset all over again," he adds. "We end up 10 to 12 times more aggravated."

From Psychology Today:

So what can you do if you're troubled by a co-worker, friend or loved one who talks too much? Here are five simple suggestions that might help:

1. First, listen—but not for too long. As you are listening, try to formulate for yourself what this person is trying to communicate: Is it a wish to be admired? A thought that they cannot get out of their head? A feeling that they cannot manage?

2. After listening for a little while and formulating what they are trying to communicate, ask them if they would mind terribly if you interrupt them. They might say, “No, no, I’m talking too much, you go ahead.” (Don’t get caught up in denying this truth out of politeness; it will just distract you both.) If they say, “Let me just finish this thought,” respond gently with something like, “Oh, I thought you had finished. Can I tell you what I heard you say?” (Of course, some people still have to say it their own way. Let them finish, since you won’t have a choice; but then interrupt them as soon **as they start to move to something else.**)

3. When you interrupt, be ready to say something about what you hear them saying. Don’t go for a deep psychological explanation. Something simple and to the point, but if possible, something that reflects something positive about them. Don’t be surprised if they start to talk over you—many people talk over everyone else because they are afraid of criticism. Again, say, “Wait, I’d like to finish my thought now,” and then say what you were going to say about them.

4. Don’t stop with a comment about them. Add some experience of your own that will confirm that you understand what they’re experiencing. A memory of a similar event, a similar feeling, a funny story—anything that gives you a chance to share your own experience but that you can tie to theirs.

5. Stop the conversation when it goes on too long. It’s really not damaging to tell someone who you’ve been listening to for more time than you have to spare (and more than you want to give away) that you’re really sorry, but you have work you have to do and you’ll have to continue this conversation later. And if they are the kind of person who comes back later to continue the conversation, just say, “No, sorry, I’m busy right now”—because, finally, you have the right to protect your own boundaries.

“Speech is silver, silence is golden” - Speaking is good but saying nothing is better. Discretion can be worth more than even eloquent words.

There are times and situations in which silence is the best policy, especially when you have nothing of value to say (Prov. 17:28), or when you haven’t even heard the question yet (Prov. 18:13). There is a time for thoughtful reflection (Prov. 15:28). And then, there is a time to speak out (Prov. 15:23). Solomon wrote this little “formula”:

Proverbs 17:28

²⁸ Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding.

Proverbs 18:13

¹³ He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him.

Proverbs 15:28

²⁸ The heart of the righteous studieth to answer: but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things.

Proverbs 15:23

²³ A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good is it!

and a time to speak... A time to speak to God!

Romans 10:9-10

⁹ That if thou shalt confess **with thy mouth** the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

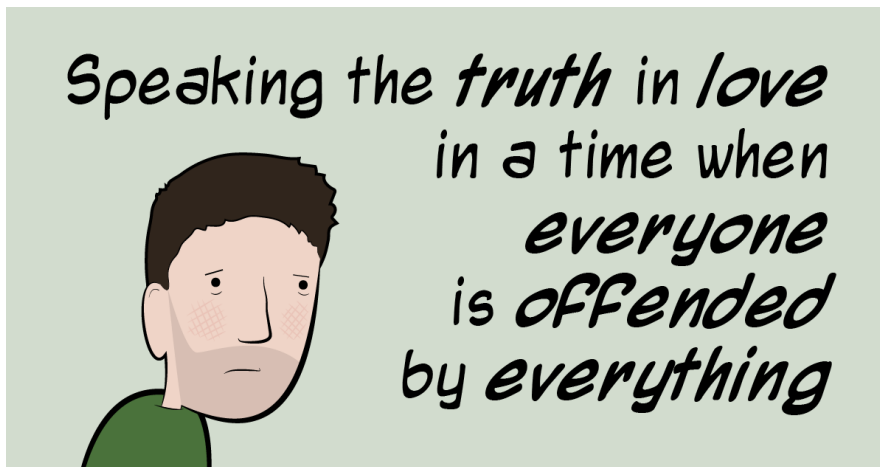
¹⁰ For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and **with the mouth** confession is made unto salvation.



and a time to speak... A time to speak to fellow believers.

Ephesians 4:15

¹⁵ But **speaking** the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:



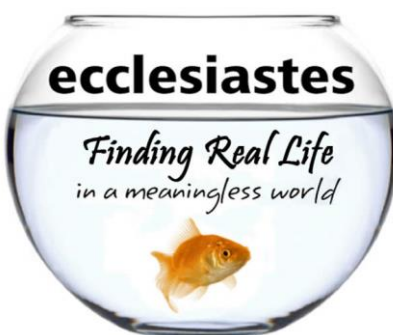
Oh boy...

and a time to speak... A time to speak to the world.

Zechariah 8:16

¹⁶ These are the things that ye shall do; **Speak** ye every man the truth to his neighbour; execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates:

Pastor Hank's Notes on: Ecclesiastes Or, The Preacher



Ecclesiastes 3

Chapter 3 Outline: A time for every purpose, verses 1-8. God is the Master of Time, verses 9-11. What the Preacher knows, verses 12-15. The problem of injustice, verses 16-17. The common fate of animals and humans under the sun, verses 18-21. Finding peace under the sun verse 22.

In chapter 3, King Solomon (“the Preacher”) teaches that God controls time. God created time, and God controls the seasons.

Genesis 1:14

¹⁴ And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, **and for seasons, and for days, and years:**

The word “time” is found 31 times in Ecclesiastes 3. In verses 2—8, it is found 28 times. These 28 activities represent the whole round of life, beginning with birth (3:1) and ending with peace (3:8). The list is made up of fourteen pairs of opposites – fourteen are positives and fourteen are negatives.

This list – describing the different seasons and facets of life – is beautiful. Yet it also casts a dark shadow, because it reminds us of the inevitability of trouble and evil, and of the relentless monotony of life. These verses indicate that today's positive act will eventually be balanced by tomorrow's negative. As surely as we are born, we must one day die.

Verse 8

⁸ A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

A time to love... Love is the greatest positive emotion we can have.

We're to Love God!

Deuteronomy 6:5

⁵ And thou shalt **love** the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

Jesus gave us two commandments that cover all. They both have to do with love.

Matthew 22:37-39

³⁷ Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt **love** the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

³⁸ This is the first and great commandment.

³⁹ And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt **love** thy neighbour as thyself.

We're to Love Jesus!

1 Corinthians 16:22

²² If any man **love** not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha.

We're to Love God's Salvation!

Psalms 40:16

¹⁶ Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: let such as **love** thy salvation say continually, The LORD be magnified.

We're to Love Jerusalem!

Isaiah 66:10

¹⁰ Rejoice ye with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all ye that **love** her: rejoice for joy with her, all ye that mourn for her:

We're to Love fellow Believers!

John 13:35

³⁵ By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have **love** one to another.

John 15:17

¹⁷ These things I command you, that ye **love** one another.

Romans 12:9-10

⁹ Let **love** be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

¹⁰ Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly **love**; in honour preferring one another;

Ephesians 4:2

² With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in **love**;

We're to Love Strangers!

Deuteronomy 10:19

¹⁹ **Love** ye therefore the stranger: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt.

We're to Love our Enemies!

Matthew 5:44

⁴⁴ But I say unto you, **Love** your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

We're to Love our Spouses!

Song of Solomon 1:2

² Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth: for thy **love** is better than wine.

Ephesians 5:25

²⁵ Husbands, **love** your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

Ephesians 5:28

²⁸ So ought men to **love** their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

Ephesians 5:33

³³ Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so **love** his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

Titus 2:4

⁴ That they may teach the young women to be sober, to **love** their husbands, to **love** their children,

love is...



...his warm legs to put your cold feet on.

love is...



... part of your everyday life.

love is...



...someone to nurse you back to health.

Love is a Fruit of The Holy Spirit!**Galatians 5:22**

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is **love**, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

We're to Walk in Love!**Ephesians 5:2**

² And walk in **love**, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

We're to Speak the Truth in Love!**Ephesians 4:15**

¹⁵ But speaking the truth in **love**, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

Love is Forgiveness!**Proverbs 10:12**

¹² Hatred stirreth up strifes: but **love** covereth all sins.

We're to Love Life!**1 Peter 3:10**

¹⁰ For he that will **love** life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:

Remember: God is Love!

1 John 4:8

⁸ He that loveth not knoweth not God; **for God is love.**

God's Love is Everlasting!

Jeremiah 31:3

³ The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting **love**: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.

Sadly in The Last Days, there won't be much Love...

Matthew 24:12

¹² And because iniquity shall abound, the **love** of many shall wax cold.

We're not to Love:

Money: 1 Timothy 6:10

¹⁰ For the **love** of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

The World: 1 John 2:15

¹⁵ **Love** not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

Laziness: Proverbs 20:13

¹³ **Love** not sleep, lest thou come to poverty; open thine eyes, and thou shalt be satisfied with bread.

and a time to hate... We're to Hate Sin, Evil, The False way, The Bad Attitude of People, The Devil...

Psalms 119:128

¹²⁸ Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I **hate** every false way.

Proverbs 8:13

¹³ The fear of the LORD is to **hate** evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

a time of war... The verse also reminds us that while we might be peace-loving individuals, situations may force us to defend ourselves. We might be drawn into conflict, when we really want peace. It should also remind us that we can't remain passive or neutral in all circumstances. There is a time when peace isn't possible. Since Cain and Abel, man has been at War...

War on Terror Facts, Costs and Timeline, Who's Wars Are More Expensive? Bush or Obama?

By Kimberly Amadeo Updated October 26, 2016, www.thebalance.com



Definition: The War on Terror (WOT) is a military campaign launched by the Bush Administration in response to the al Qaeda 9/11 terrorist attacks. The President announced it on September 20, 2001, in this speech to Congress. "Our war on terror begins with Al Qaeda," he said," but it does not end there. It will not end until every terrorist group of global reach has been found, stopped, and defeated." (Source: "Bush Addresses Nation," Washington Post, September 20, 2001)

Between 2001 and 2017, \$1.778 trillion was spent on or budgeted for the War on Terror. That's emergency funding added to the base budget for the Department of Defense. Congress approves the supplemental funds, but they aren't subject to sequestration restrictions. For total spending, see U.S. Military Budget. It adds spending on the War on Terror to the DOD base budget and supporting departments (Homeland Security, the Veterans Administration, and the State Department).

War on Terror Timeline and Costs:

Here are the War on Terror costs by year. The sources are the DOD budgets and the OMB Historical Tables. The specific estimates for the War in Iraq and Afghanistan War are taken from the 2011 Congressional Budget Report.

2001 - \$28.7 billion: Bush asked for \$20.8 billion to launch the Afghanistan War. At first, the attack was confined to air strikes to eliminate the threat from al Qaida's leader, Osama bin Laden.

The Taliban government was replaced with Hamid Karzai in December 2001.

2002 - \$16.9 billion: Although ground troops pursued bin Laden in the Afghan foothills, Bush shifted his focus to gaining Congressional approval for the Iraq War, which he received in October 2002. In November, Congress passed the Homeland Security Act to create the Department of Homeland Security, a stand-alone, Cabinet-level department to coordinate terrorism intelligence and unify 22 agencies that handled domestic security.

2003 - \$72.5 billion: The U.S. launched the Iraq War on March 19 with "Shock and Awe," which cost \$53 billion. Homeland Security officially opened its doors in March. The Hussein regime fell in April. The U.S. spent \$14.5 billion in an effort to end its involvement in the War in Afghanistan, and turn it over to NATO's peacekeeping mission.

2004 - \$91.1 billion: The War in Iraq escalated to control insurgents, costing \$75.9 billion. Photos revealed torture at the Abu Ghraib prison fueled greater resistance. Afghanistan created a Constitution while bin Laden threatened another terrorist attack. The U.S. spent \$14.5 billion on Afghanistan and \$0.7 billion on enhanced security.

2005 - \$78.8 billion: The Afghan War costs were spent to protect Afghans from Taliban attacks for their first free election. (Note: The 2011 Congressional Report said the Iraq War cost \$85.5 billion, but FY 2016 DOD and OMB reports only list \$78.8 billion spent on both wars.)

2006 - \$124 billion: Iraq War costs rose to \$101.6 billion.

Costs in Afghanistan dropped slightly to \$19 billion despite increasing violence. The new government struggled to provide basic service, including police protection. NATO was criticized for not providing more soldiers.

2007 - \$169.4 billion: A surge of 20,000 additional U.S. troops were flown into Iraq to keep the peace until the U.S.-backed Shiite leaders could gain better control. This increased costs to \$131.2 billion. The Afghan War spending nearly doubled to \$38.2 billion.

2008 - \$186.9 billion: Violence escalated in Afghanistan, boosting costs there to \$43.5 billion, while costs in Iraq rose to \$142.1 billion.

2009 - \$153.1 billion: President Obama took office in the middle of this budget year. He sent 17,000 more troops to Afghanistan in April, promising to send another 30,000 in December in addition to the 68,000 in place. He changed strategy to address Taliban and al Qaeda forces hiding in Pakistan. This added \$59.5 billion to Bush's FY 2009 budget. Karzai was reelected, although this time amidst accusations of fraud. Obama announced a drawdown of troops would start in 2011. Costs for Iraq fell for the first time to \$95.5 billion.

2010 - \$163.4 billion: Obama funded an orderly wind-down to end the War in Iraq. Surge forces were sent to Afghanistan, raising costs there to \$91.8 billion, the highest so far. NATO agreed to turn over all defense to Afghan forces by 2014. For the first time, the President used the OCO to add \$300,000 for support departments.

2011 - \$159.5 billion: Osama bin Laden was killed by Special Forces on May 1, 2011. Obama announced he would withdraw 10,000 troops from Afghanistan by the end of the year, and 23,000 by the end of 2012. Nevertheless, costs rose to \$109.5 billion, while \$49.3 billion was spent in Iraq to end the war there.

2012 - \$126.6 billion: The War in Afghanistan dragged on. Obama announced the withdrawal of another 23,000 troops in the summer, leaving 70,000 troops remaining. Both sides agreed to accelerate U.S. troop withdrawal to 2013 as their presence becomes more unwelcome. OCO funding for support departments skyrockets to \$11.5 billion. (Source: NYT, Afghanistan War Timeline, June 22, 2011.)

2013 - \$93.1 billion: U.S. forces shifted to training and support role. Taliban and U.S. reignited peace negotiations, causing Karzai to suspend his negotiations with the United States.

2014 - \$91.9 billion: Obama announces final U.S. troop withdrawal, with only a goal of only 9,800 remaining at the end of the year. (Source: Afghanistan War, Council on Foreign Relations)

2015 - \$74.7 billion: This includes \$53.4 billion to support 11,661 troops to continue training Afghan forces, \$300,000 to support a small presence in Iraq, and \$4.9 billion to fund various other international terrorism combat activities. (Source: DOD 2015 OCO Amendment)

2016 - \$73.7 billion: This amount includes ongoing training efforts in Afghanistan, as well as training and equipment for Iraqi and Syrian opposition forces. It also includes support for NATO, and responses to terrorist threats. OCO support department funding was a record \$15 billion. (Source: DOD 2016 OCO Amendment)

2017 - \$73.7 billion: The DoD requested \$58.8 billion for Operation Freedom Sentinel in Afghanistan, Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq and the Levant, increased European support, and counterterrorism. OCO funding for support departments was \$14.9 billion. (Source: DOD 2017 OCO Amendment)

Who Spent More: Bush or Obama?

Obama campaigned on defense reduction, dropped the phrase "War on Terror," and was even awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for pulling troops out of Iraq. However, his OCO spending since FY 2010 is \$857 billion. It's nearly as much as President Bush's expenditure of \$921 billion.

Effect on the U.S. Economy

The War on Terror added nearly \$1.8 trillion to the \$19 trillion U.S. debt. That's a 10% increase for war spending alone. It does not include the DOD base budget, the expenses incurred by other departments, such as the FBI or State Department, or the cost to run Homeland Security and the VA -- all of which kept the nation secure.

The War in Iraq lasted longer than the Vietnam War. More important, 4,488 U.S. soldiers were killed and 32,226 were wounded. More than \$800 billion was spent on the Iraq War alone. (Source: ABC News, Final U.S. Troops Leave Iraq, March 19, 2013)

(There Opinion) The true cost of the War on Terror is not just what it has added to the debt, but also the lost jobs that could have been created with those funds. Every \$1 billion spent on defense creates 8,555 jobs and adds \$565 million to the economy. However, that same \$1 billion given to you as a tax cut would have stimulated enough demand to create 10,779 jobs and put \$505 million into the economy as retail spending. And \$1 billion in education spending adds \$1.3 billion to the economy and creates 17,687 jobs. Perhaps for the health of the U.S. economy, the best defense is a good offense.

and a time of peace... God wants us to live in Peace, if it be possible.

Romans 12:18

¹⁸ If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live **peaceably** with all men.

The New York Times

'What Every Person Should Know About War' By CHRIS HEDGES

What is a war?

War is defined as an active conflict that has claimed more than 1,000 lives.

Has the world ever been at peace?

Of the past 3,400 years, humans have been entirely at peace for 268 of them, or just 8 percent of recorded history.

According to **The Global Peace Index 2016**, The Top Twenty Most Peaceful Countries in the World are:

1. Iceland 2. Denmark, 3. Austria, 4. New Zealand, 5. Portugal, 6. Czech Republic, 7. Switzerland, 8. Canada, 9. Japan, 10. Slovenia. 11. Finland, 12. Ireland, 13. Bhutan, 14. Sweden, 15. Australia, 16. Germany, 17. Norway, 18. Belgium, 19. Hungary, 20. Singapore

**** South Korea #53, USA #103, The Philippines # 139**

Out of 162 countries, 151 of the world's nations are currently involved in some form of conflict.

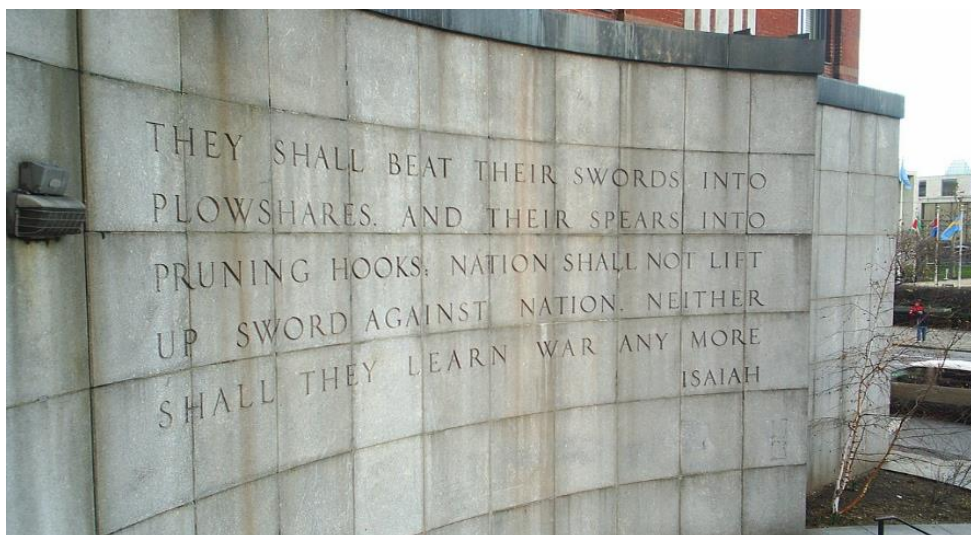
There is a day of peace coming when Jesus reigns.

Micah 4:3

³ And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, **neither shall they learn war any more.**

Isaiah 2:4

⁴ And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, **neither shall they learn war any more.**



Where is this? Answer: _____

Romans 16:20

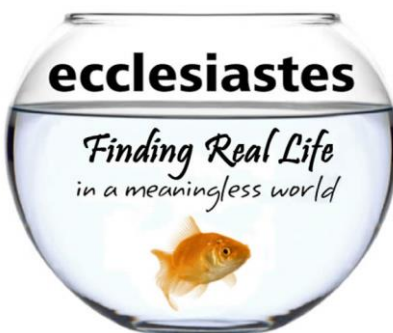
²⁰ And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

Isaiah 9:6

⁶ For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, **The Prince of Peace.**



Pastor Hank's Notes on: Ecclesiastes Or, The Preacher



Ecclesiastes 3

Chapter 3 Outline: A time for every purpose, verses 1-8. God is the Master of Time, verses 9-11. What the Preacher knows, verses 12-15. The problem of injustice, verses 16-17. The common fate of animals and humans under the sun, verses 18-21. Finding peace under the sun verse 22.

In chapter 3, King Solomon (“the Preacher”) teaches that God controls time. God created time, and God controls the seasons.

God is the Master of Time, verses 9-11:

Verse 9

⁹ What profit hath he that worketh in that wherein he laboureth?

What profit hath he that worketh in that wherein he laboureth?... As frequently in Ecclesiastes, the positive question here is actually a negative statement.

"Since everything must happen at the right moment, according to God's plan, nothing man can do makes any difference."- This is how a Calvinist-Reformed Theology believer thinks... Of course, the argument is false. What man can do makes all the difference between his eternal destiny, either for joy or for sorrow, or by working this is called **Free Will**. What's The American Dream?

What profit hath he...? Is a fair question... Why do we work? Why do we need profit/money? Necessity drives him to the principal part of his cares and toils; he labors that he may eat and drink; and he eats and drinks that he may be preserved alive, and kept from sickness and pain, its called survival. And of course man works for the love of money which leads to his destruction.

Work is a part of life...

Remember: All of man's labors, **without God's blessing are unprofitable**, and utterly insufficient to make them happy.

Mark 8:36

³⁶ For what shall it **profit** a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

You cannot work your way to God, you only need Faith! – Pastor Hank

Verse 10

¹⁰ I have seen the travail, which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised in it.

I have seen... Solomon has diligently observed and considered man's work,

the travail, or the occupation or business, men's various employments, and the differing successes of them, and their toils and struggles in working.

which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised in it...

Work-Means Either:

1. Which God hath imposed upon men **as their duty**; and therefore men must labour, although it brings them no profit, as was now said. Or,

2. Which God hath inflicted upon mankind as a **just punishment for their sins**; to which therefore men ought work quietly and submit.

Solomon is simply making the observation that every generation works, every generation **travails/struggles** for what? Earthly survival and pleasure to himself. Notice now that Solomon mentions **God eight times** in the next few verses.

Verse 11

¹¹ He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.

He hath made every thing beautiful in his time... The real truth about life is that everything happens on God's time!

Hymn: A: IN HIS TIME, IN HIS TIME

HE MAKES ALL THINGS BEAUTIFUL IN HIS TIME

LORD, PLEASE SHOW ME EVERYDAY

AS YOU'RE TEACHING ME YOUR WAY

AND I'LL DO JUST WHAT YOU SAY

IN YOUR TIME.

B: IN YOUR TIME, IN YOUR TIME

YOU MAKE ALL THINGS BEAUTIFUL IN YOUR TIME

LORD, MY LIFE TO YOU I BRING

MAY EACH SONG I HAVE TO SING

BE TO YOU A LOVELY THING

IN YOUR TIME

BE TO YOU A LOVELY THING

IN YOUR TIME.

beautiful in his time... This phrase echoes Genesis chapter 1.

Genesis 1:31

³¹ And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

also he hath set the world in their heart... This world-shaking fact is one that no person can deny. There is in every human heart a longing for eternal life and the instinctive certainty of it.



Point To Note:

also he hath set the world in their heart... Another way of saying this is: **“Set eternity in their heart”**. Unlike the animals, we long to see time and events in their full context, for we know and believe something of eternity: enough at least to compare the “fleeting” with the “forever”. People have a longing or desire to know the historical time and significance of themselves and their deeds or activities and where they all end up in.

Here is a piece of the **"image of God"** in which every person is created (Genesis). We have a sense of the infinite. Built into each one of us is the ability to look back into the past and forward into the future. Of all creatures on this earth, man is the one who thinks about where he has been and where he is going. Another proof that we were created by God is our ability to grasp the concept of "eternity". But we know just enough to make us realize the vast amount that we don't know.

“We see enough to recognize something of its quality, but the grand design escapes us, for we can never stand back far enough to view it as its Creator does, whole and entire” -Derek Kidner, Bible Commentator.

so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end... The lament here is that man's intelligence is useless in those great areas that most concern him, life, death, the hereafter, eternity, etc.; and the reason for this lies simply in the fact that God's revelation through his Word is the God-appointed means by which man may acquire vital and truthful information in those areas. This limitation frustrates man, and makes their proud heart feel hopeless. Why? They don't want to know God or read His Book.



The faithful servant of God through Christ has the comfort that:

Romans 8:28

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

“All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose”; but for the man who is trying to live his life in rebellion against God, no such comfort is available. The only man has then is his work...

Remember, God has a plan and a purpose for man according to HIS time.

"yet so that man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end"

Evolution is a classic example of how blind man is and **will not find out the work which God has done**. Take a good look at Genesis 1 and the theory of Evolution and ask yourself, have Evolutionists even come close to knowing what really happened? Isn't evolving from monkeys in contrast to being created in the image of God---about as far off as you can get?

What the Preacher knows, verses 12-15.

Verse 12

¹² I know that there is no good in them, but for a man to rejoice, and to do good in his life.

Solomon has determined that there is no good in man himself. His goodness is of God. He decides that the thing for man to do, is do the very best he can under the circumstances. It does bring joy, when you know you have done good.

Since the events in our Earthly life aren't eternal, then we need to appreciate them. So often we are in a hurry to get to the next stage in our lives. Instead, we need to slow down and appreciate each stage. Both the believer and the unbeliever can seek to make the most of this life, but the unbeliever is doing it in vain.

Verse 13

¹³ And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God.

Part of the joy in life comes from realizing you have worked, and done your best. It is a good feeling to work all day, and then, come home and eat food you have provided for yourself.

Psalm 128:2

² For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee.

There is a big difference between selfishly trying to squeeze all the fun out of each moment in life and appreciating each moment in life. Only the believer can really see that there was "good" (true and lasting) in what he accomplished. This perspective is called the "gift of God" because only those who believe in Him and have accepted His Word are able to think this way. The man that accepts the timing of every event, and receives food, family and work, as gifts from God, will be the person that can truly enjoy this short life.



it is the gift of God... This is an expression in the book which takes us "above the sun".

Verse 14

¹⁴ I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him.

Here the Preacher escapes – ever so briefly – his under the sun thinking. It is not the mere mention of God that brings the escape; it is also the knowledge that God is eternal and that this matters to us (God does it, that men should fear before Him).

Three aspects of God's action highlighted in Ecclesiastes 3:14 :

1. God's actions are permanent (**it shall be forever**). In contrast to those things which men do. Isn't it strange that finite, earth-bound and imperfect people seek to argue with an all-powerful, all knowing, Eternal Infinite Heavenly God? Who are we to talk about what is and what isn't of a lasting nature! If anything is temporary or short-lived-it is us and our human opinions!
2. God's actions are effective and complete (**nothing can be put to it**).
3. God's actions are totally secure (**nor any thing taken from it**).

God's plans, unlike ours need no corrections, updates or last minute changes. It is complete. And yet, what does man say? Man says that the Bible is filled with errors, we can't trust it, it has been corrupted, etc....But look at who is constantly changing his theories, contradicting his statements

in the past, overturning previous "facts", and so on---it is man! The truth of the Bible hasn't been updated, rather it is the Evolutionist and others who have constantly been changing, amending and correcting their theories.

that men should fear before him... The fear of God on man's part is the basic element of true wisdom and that God binds it as a pre-condition of all the blessings he may give to men. The fear of God a fruitful, loving (affectionate) relationship.

Proverbs 1:7

⁷ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

The sad thing is that Modern Man doesn't fear God...

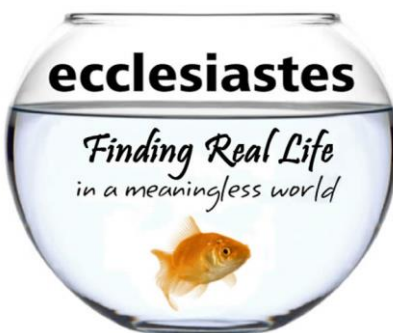
Verse 15

¹⁵ That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past.

God's law requires the return of the same cycle of events, as in the past. There is a continual return of the same motions of the Stars, Moon, Planets and Comets, of the same seasons of the year, and a constant succession of new generations of men and beasts, but all of the same quality.

This verse gives hope and encouragement to the believer, for it assures him or her that this life isn't futile or hopelessly unfair. Right will prevail, and God will judge all the wrongs in the past, why? **God requireth that which is past.**

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Ecclesiastes 3

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In chapter 3, King Solomon (“the Preacher”) teaches that God controls time. God created time, and God controls the seasons.

The problem of injustice, verses 16-17:

Verse 16

¹⁶ And moreover I saw under the sun the place of judgment, that wickedness was there; and the place of righteousness, that iniquity was there.

the place of judgment, that wickedness was there ... In the place where justice is supposed to be administered, i.e. among lawyers, judges, the courts and so on and in the place where godly, righteous and fair-minded men should be, there are liars, thieves and outright criminals, **that wickedness and iniquity was there.** And we see the same thing today! We know that there are judges and legislators who are outright ungodly individuals, who care little for true justice, but rather are only interested in pushing an agenda which agrees with their own selfishness.

Our wicked society today must face up to this question. Powerful and evil voices are shouting an agreeing answer. When our Supreme Court:

1. *McCullum v. Board of Education*, 333 U.S. 203 (1948), was a landmark 1948 United States Supreme Court case related to the power of a state to use its tax-supported public school system in aid of religious instruction. In 1940, interested members of various Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish faiths formed an association named the Champaign Council on Religious Education. This association obtained permission from the Champaign Board of Education to offer voluntary religious education classes for public school students from grades four to nine. These weekly 30- and 45-minute classes were led by clergy and lay members of the association in public school classrooms during school hours.

McCullum, an atheist, objected to the religious classes, stating that her son James was ostracized for not attending them. After complaints to school officials to stop offering these classes went unheeded, McCullum sued the school board and won in 1948.

2. Outlawed prayer in the public schools, 1963. *Engel v. Vitale*, 370 U.S. 421 (1962), was a landmark United States Supreme Court case that ruled it is unconstitutional for state officials to compose an official school prayer and encourage its recitation in public schools.
3. *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113 (1973) Laws that restrict a woman's ability to have an abortion prior to viability are unconstitutional. Most restrictions during the first trimester are prohibited, and only health-related restrictions are permitted during the second trimester.
4. *Obergefell v. Hodges*, 576 U.S. (2015), is a landmark United States Supreme Court case in which the Court held in a 5–4 decision that the fundamental right to marry is guaranteed to same-sex couples by both the Due Process Clause and the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.



Verse 17

¹⁷ I said in mine heart, God shall judge the righteous and the wicked: for there is a time there for every purpose and for every work.

The Preacher knew God would judge the righteous and the wicked, and not only in this life. Because **there is a time there for every purpose and for every work**, God will judge the deeds of man to see if it was a wicked or righteous work at **The Great White Throne Judgment**.

Hebrews 9:27

²⁷ And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

The Great White Throne Judgment:

Sinners who reject Christ will die in their sins and go directly to Hell (**Luke 16:22-23**). After the millennial reign of Christ, Death and Hell will be delivered up before **The Great White Throne Judgment**. Sinners will be judged according to their works. At this point they will realize that their works are unacceptable to God and they will be cast into the eternal lake of fire (**Revelation 20:11-15**).

Revelation 20:11-15

¹¹ And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

¹²And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: **and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.**

¹³And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

¹⁴And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

¹⁵And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

The common fate of animals and humans under the sun, verses 18-21:

Verse 18

¹⁸I said in mine heart concerning the estate of the sons of men, that God might manifest them, and that they might see that they themselves are beasts.

that God might manifest them... "Tested them"-or bring to light, expose, made known to. Time gives people the chance to **manifest** their true character. Time allows the sinner to repent (2 Peter 3:9) or it gives them more time to store up condemnation for self (Romans 2:1-5), and make it obvious to all that God was just in condemning them to an eternal hell.

and that they might see that they themselves are beasts...Who are these men whom Solomon said **"are beasts"**? Did he say this of all mankind, or merely of those wicked men who were perverting justice in the courts (Verse16)? I think the words here should be in context in their application to wicked men, which would be fully in harmony with what the rest of the Bible which flatly declares, namely, that an evil man, "Is like the beasts that perish" (Psalms 49:20).

Solomon isn't saying that there is no difference between man and the animals, but rather of his own freewill man often acts worse than the animals. That's why we call evil people "animals".

The man, who lets his flesh rule his decisions, is very much like an animal. The true difference in man and animal is that man has the power to do good, or evil. Man has a soul, beasts do not.

Is Man Only an Animal?

1. God created the animals in an instant act of Creation, Genesis chap 1, when Adam was created, "The Lord God formed [Hebrew yatsar] the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life" (Gen. 2:7). In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word yatsar is used to describe the actions of a potter who skillfully and imaginatively forms his vessels. In the same way, God used earthly matter for Adam's physical parts.

Genesis 2:7

⁷ And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

2. Man was made in God's own image, animals were not.

Genesis 1:27

²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

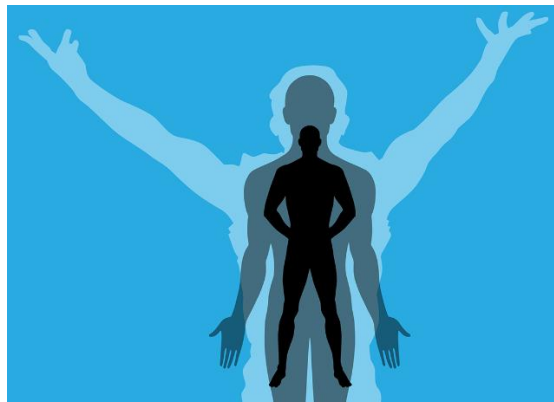
3. Man has a soul and a spirit, animals do not.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

²³ And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole **spirit** and **soul** and **body** be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Trichotomy of Man: Means three-parts. Man's nature consists of three parts: spirit, soul, and body. The tripartite nature of man reflects the tripartite nature of God. God is Trinity therefore man is trinity.

The soul, which is alive both physically and eternally, the spirit can be either alive, as in the case of believers, (1 Peter 3:18), or dead as unbelievers are (Colossians 2:13; Ephesians 2:4-5). The spiritual part of believers in Jesus Christ is that which responds to the things that come from the Spirit of God, understanding and discerning them spiritually. The spiritually dead perceive the things of the Spirit to be "foolishness" because, in his spiritually dead conditions, he does not have the ability to discern the things of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:12-14). The spirit is that part of us that is enabled by God to know and worship Him, the part of humanity that "connects" with God, who Himself is Spirit (John 4:24).



4. Only man has a free will and possesses the faculty of creative thought.

Psalm 8:5

⁵ For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.

Human beings possess gifts such as freely developing personalities, inventiveness, and the capacity for cultural development (writing, music, historical awareness).



5. Even the difference in flesh is mentioned in the Bible:

1 Corinthians 15:39

³⁹ All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds.

6. Animals are also creatures of God, but they did not receive the calling to become children of God.

John 1:12

¹² But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

7. In contrast to the animals, man is an eternal being; this means that his existence never ends, even after the death of the body (Luke 16:19–31). An imperishable body will be raised from the perishable one. (1 Corinthians 15)

Is Man Only an Animal?

Our wicked society today must face up to this question. Powerful and evil voices are shouting an affirmative answer.

Every day in 10,000 classrooms, atheistic teachers are telling their gullible students that man is merely an animal, 'highly evolved,' of course, but still an animal with no immortal soul. The vast majority of these evolutionists have long ago denied the existence of the God of the Bible. Their theory of evolution is itself a blatant and unprovable lie; and the ultimate consequences of any society's accepting it are certain to lead to the absolute destruction of that society.

Verse 19

¹⁹ For that which befallerth the sons of men befallerth beasts; even one thing befallerth 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.

Animals and Man dies the same way: old age, run over by a Truck, drowning, killed, murdered, choking, house fire, eaten alive...

they have all one breath... The physical fate is in view here not the spiritual fate. The "one breath" refers to the physical side of life (we all breathe) and it isn't talking about the soul in man.

Verse 20

²⁰ All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.

All go unto one place... The earth from where they came.

Animals and Man die the same way, their bodies decompose and **turn to dust again** the same way.

Verse 21

²¹ Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?

Who knows why man goes up (Heaven) and why animals go down (Earth)? God knows!

Believers knows!

2 Corinthians 5:8

⁸ We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

Verse 22

²² Wherefore I perceive that there is nothing better, than that a man should rejoice in his own works; for that is his portion: for who shall bring him to see what shall be after him?

Wherefore I perceive that there is nothing better, than that a man should rejoice in his own works... It's ok for man to rejoice in what he has accomplished, the sad part is that for the lost man, all he has is a short memory of what he has done, without the Saving Eternal Grace of God...

for who shall bring him to see what shall be after him?...

Who shall succeed him, and what use they will make of what he leaves them? He shall never return after death to see anything of this kind, nor shall any inform him with it; he shall not be able to know when he is dead what shall befall his sons

“For a man's present satisfaction. Should rejoice - That he comfortably enjoys what God hath given him. His portion - This is the benefit of his labours. For - When once he is dead he shall never return to see into whose hands his estate falls.” – John Wesley

Who shall bring David to see what Solomon did? And who shall bring Solomon to see what Rehoboam did?

Man has a Tri-Part Nature: Body, Soul & Spirit. Teaching Moment:

1 Thessalonians 5:23

²³ And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole **spirit** and **soul** and **body** be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

****The apostle Paul describes the complete makeup of a human being with a combination of three different words: **spirit** and **soul** and **body**.**

****The words spirit, soul, and body are translated from the three New Testament Greek words: pneuma, psuche, and soma, respectively. In the Hebrew language of the Old Testament the same three words are ruach, nephesh and geshem, respectively.**

Body= Man is made up of physical material, the body, that can be seen and touched.

THE DISTINCTION OF SOUL AND SPIRIT: Some teach that the soul and the spirit are the same thing. But this will not work when one looks at the Bible.

Luke 1:46-47

⁴⁶ And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord,

⁴⁷ And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

Hebrews 4:12 (you have division)

¹² For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Genesis 2:7

⁷ And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

1) The dust of the ground (The body) 2) The breath of Life (The spirit) 3) A living soul (The soul)

Soul= The soul also has a bodily form except it is on the inside of your physical body. The soul cannot be seen with the natural eye but it is still there. The soul is really who you are-the “inner you”. For instance at death we know that the body goes back to dust and the part of you that goes to heaven or hell depending on whether you are saved or lost is the soul. The “soul” is used in close connection with the “spirit” (Deut. 4:29; 6:5; 10:12; 11:13,18). In some cases the “soul” might actually be a synonym for the “spirit,” but the N.T. makes a distinction between the two and says man has both a soul and a spirit (1 Thes. 5:23). The soul has feelings (Gen. 42:21); it thinks (Gen. 49:6); it can sin (Lev. 4:2); it can love God and keep His commandments (Deut. 6:5; 10:12; 11:13); it can meditate upon God’s words (Deut. 11:18); it can love a friend (1 Sam. 18:1-3); it can long for and trust in God (Psalms 57:1; 63:1); it can be chastened with fasting (Psalm 69:10).

Spirit= Is the CONSCIENCE: The inner sense of what is right or wrong in regards to one’s conduct or motives, impelling one toward right action.

Psalms 34:18

¹⁸ The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

When one dies, the spirit returns back to God!

Ecclesiastes 12:7

⁷ Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and **the spirit** shall return unto God who gave it.

Pastor Hank's Notes on: Ecclesiastes Or, The Preacher



Ecclesiastes 4

Chapter 4 Outline: The Oppression of men, verses, 1-3. Success often gains the envy of one's neighbor, verses 4-6. Vanity in Isolation and Loneliness. Without a friend, accomplishments are vain, verses, 7-12. The vanity of popularity and fame with its short life, verses 13-16.

Ecclesiastes 4, The Oppression of men, verses, 1-3:

Verse 1

1 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.

So I returned, and considered all the oppressions that are done under the sun ... Solomon once again returns to the subject of evil men prospering. There is an **oppression** that comes on good men from the worldly men. The point here is not merely that there is **power**, but that **power** corrupts.

Throughout man's history and throughout The Bible, man has oppressed man and The Bible has some things to say about oppression:

Oppression means: Unjust or cruel exercise of authority or power. Prolonged cruel or unjust treatment or control.

Leviticus 25:17, People oppressing each other:

¹⁷ Ye shall not therefore **oppress** one another; but thou shalt fear thy God: for I am the LORD your God.

Deuteronomy 24:14, Boss oppressing employees:

¹⁴ Thou shalt not **oppress** an hired servant that is poor and needy, whether he be of thy brethren, or of thy strangers that are in thy land within thy gates:

Proverbs 22:16, Oppressing the poor:

¹⁶ He that **oppresseth** the poor to increase his riches, and he that giveth to the rich, shall surely come to want.

Proverbs 22:22, Oppressing those that are weak:

²² Rob not the poor, because he is poor: neither **oppress** the afflicted in the gate:

Hosea 12:7, Dishonest Businessmen oppressing their customers:

⁷ He is a merchant, the balances of deceit are in his hand: he loveth to **oppress**.

Isaiah 53:7, They oppressed The Lord Jesus...

⁷ He was **oppressed**, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

and on the side of their oppressors there was power; but they had no comforter... The people had no one to **comfort** them. The **Oppressors** had the **power** to crush them and keep them under **oppression** and hindered others from helping or **comforting** them. There was no **power** to deliver them out of the hand of their **oppressors**.

We might ask, "How could injustice exist under Solomon's reign?" But the truth of the matter is that even the best king or president can't eliminate evil in a country or even in his own administration. Think what every American President felt about Slavery until Abraham Lincoln became President.

Verse 2

² Wherefore I praised the dead which are already dead more than the living which are yet alive.

Wherefore I praised the dead which are already dead... Why would Solomon praise the dead? Because **the dead** are out of the reach of their oppressors.

If this life is all there is "under the sun", then it would be better not to be born, then to experience the pain, suffering and **oppression** that this life has to offer.

Job said in Job 3:18:

¹⁸ There the prisoners rest together; they hear not the voice of the **oppressor**.

Verse 3

³ Yea, better is he than both they, which hath not yet been, who hath not seen the evil work that is done under the sun.

Solomon is looking back over his life and seeing the **oppressions** and injustices that men do against their fellowmen. He dwells on the sadness of life. He says it is better not to have been born, than see all of this sorrow.

Success often gains the envy of one's neighbor, verses 4-6:

Verse 4

⁴ Again, I considered all travail, and every right work, that for this a man is envied of his neighbour. This is also vanity and vexation of spirit.

This is speaking of a person working hard and becoming a success, and then, his neighbors become envious of his success. The very first time this happened, was between the two brothers, Cain and Abel. Cain was jealous, because God accepted Abel's offering, and did not accept his. He became so **envious**, he killed his brother.

Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery, because they envied his relationship with his dad. Even the men of the temple envied Jesus, and had Him murdered.

Sadly, the basic motive for success is the driving force of envy and jealousy!

Verse 5

⁵The fool foldeth his hands together, and eateth his own flesh.

The fool foldeth his hands together... Solomon here answered the tendency for those jealous of the success of others to be lazy. Like fools, they fold their hands and do nothing – and so waste away. Yet it wasn't the success of their neighbor that made them waste away; the foolish, lazy man consumes his own flesh.



Up, sluggard, and waste not life; in the grave
will be sleeping enough.

(Benjamin Franklin)

Verse 6

⁶Better is an handful with quietness, than both the hands full with travail and vexation of spirit.

The Preacher reflects on the value of **contentment**. It is better to have less and be content (with **quietness**) than to have more and constantly be grasping for more on top.

Solomon weaved some fascinating themes together in verses 4-6.

- Hard work and success are good and not to be envied.
- Laziness is wrong and destructive.
- Yet even the one with full hands must learn contentment.

Solomon often wrote on this theme of contentment:

Proverbs 16:8

⁸Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right.

Proverbs 15:16-17

¹⁶Better is little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith.

¹⁷Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith.

Proverbs 17:1

1 Better is a dry morsel, and quietness therewith, than an house full of sacrifices with strife.

Without a friend, accomplishments are vain, verses, 7-12:

Verse 7

⁷ Then I returned, and I saw vanity under the sun.

It could be said so far in chapter 4 of: (1) man's inhumanity to men (Verses 1-3), (2) the inhumanity caused by rivalry and envy (Verses 4-6), and (3) man's inhumanity to himself (Verse 8).

Verse 8

⁸ There is one alone, and there is not a second; yea, he hath neither child nor brother: yet is there no end of all his labour; neither is his eye satisfied with riches; neither saith he, For whom do I labour, and bereave my soul of good? This is also vanity, yea, it is a sore travail.

There is one alone, and there is not a second... This is speaking of loneliness. This, too, is strange coming from Solomon. He is surrounded by wives, children and concubines, but he's feeling very alone.

We may understand that his loneliness is no accident and that he probably has no friends either. Solomon is King and is always busy, he's a workaholic! Such a man, even with a wife and children will have little time for them, convinced that he is toiling for their benefit although he heart is elsewhere: devoted and wedded to his projects.

Why Being A Workaholic Is Awful For You AND Everyone Around You

Nov 08, 2014, Harry Bradford, Associate Editor, Huff Post Business and Huff Post Small Business

All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. It also hurts Jack's health and has a negative impact on his relationships and work life.

Researchers and psychologists have been arguing for decades about what constitutes "workaholism," and whether it is a disorder at all. Regardless, since the term started being thrown around in the 1970s, a mountain of evidence has piled up showing that workaholics display many of the same characteristics as those addicted to drugs or alcohol, such as compulsively engaging in behavior that is ultimately destructive.

According to a new study published in the Journal of Management, there is a significant difference between being engaged at work and being addicted to it. While the former is characterized by hard work because the worker is passionate about the job, the latter is often motivated by negative feelings like guilt and compulsion.

The problem is, workaholism is the rare mental health issue that can often have positive rewards in the short term — namely, the praise of a happy boss. That's one reason psychologist Bryan Robinson once called workaholism "the best-dressed mental health problem."

So if you're trying to wean yourself off your work addiction but just having a little difficulty, here are some things to keep in mind.

Not taking vacations hurts your career.

Americans left some \$52.4 billion worth of unused vacation time on the table in 2013. That makes ditching vacation both one of the most costly and common ways Americans overwork themselves.

Workers that don't take vacation were also found to be less productive and score lower on performance reviews, a 2006 study found.

Three-quarters of American workers don't use all their vacation time, according to an August 2014 study.

Your brain needs breaks.

OK, so maybe you're good about vacations, but do you also leave time to take a break or two during the day? Giving your brain some down time is essential to increasing productivity. A recent study found that the ideal work-to-break ratio should be 52 minutes of work followed by a 17-minute break.

The study is backed up by several others that have found giving your brain some time to relax and day dream increases productivity, problem-solving and creativity.

Eating lunch at your desk is bad for you.

For one, a lunch break is a perfect time to recharge your brain. But even just the physical activity of getting up and away from your desk can help improve productivity and stave off obesity. A recent U.K. study found that people who ate more meals at work were more likely to be overweight.

What's more, experts agree that grabbing lunch with co-workers and clients can be a great way to network and further your career.

We don't need to mention that skipping lunch altogether is maybe the worst thing you can do.

Constantly checking email wastes your life.

No matter what you tell yourself, constantly being on your work email isn't helping your state of mind or your productivity. A 2012 study found that when workers were forced to take a five-day break from work email they experienced less stress and became more efficient at completing work tasks. The hiatus even led to workers having "more natural, variable heart rates."

Workers who answer emails late in to the evening were also more likely to be exhausted the next day and hence less engaged, two 2014 studies found.

You're probably hurting your relationship.

Being addicted to work can cause serious rifts between partners in romantic relationships. Since workaholism can be thought of in a similar way to substance addiction, workaholics often prioritize their job over their friends and family. For example, those addicted to work can leave a disproportionate amount of domestic duties to spouses who have a more balanced approach to their careers.

Marriages involving a workaholic are twice as likely to end in divorce, a 1999 study found. For those that stay together, the psychological damage can be considerable. Kids of workaholics have been found to experience greater levels of depression and anxiety than the children of alcoholics.

You can't keep it up forever.

In short, workaholics burn out. What may begin as simply spending a few extra hours at the office every week can quickly spiral into much more destructive behavior because workaholics don't take the time to give themselves a break, CNN Money reports. All that nonstop activity can result in bad personal habits and ultimately lead to what one expert called "incapacitating 'burnout.'"

Studies have shown that limiting workers to a 40-hour week is the best way to maintain long-term productivity.

It's bad for your co-workers and employers.

Having workers who take on too much stress, as workaholics often do, isn't just bad for the employee — it's bad for companies and co-workers, too. Businesses lose an estimated \$300 billion in productivity due to stress each year, according to the World Health Organization.

But that stress can also have collateral damage on co-workers. Since workaholics tend to be perfectionists, they can often put added — and often unnecessary — stress on their colleagues, according to experts.

And even worse for you.

In short, workaholism has been linked with a laundry list of disorders, including alcoholism, sleep problems, heart disease, depression and anxiety, weight gain, high blood pressure and even premature death.

The good news is there are resources available for those who feel they may be losing the ability to balance their personal and work lives. Workaholics Anonymous is a 12-step program based on the one designed for recovering alcoholics. It's just one of many ways people can learn to set clear boundaries between the office and the home, according to CNN Money.

For whom do I labour, and bereave my soul of good?... Solomon has been so caught up in the pursuit of material possessions that he never stopped and realized what his greed had actually cost him. Here is a man blinded by the world's view of success. This question never crossed his mind, he thinks that his fortune will bring him happiness, rather, the truth is that he has actually sacrificed a lot (family) of happiness to gain his fortune. Here we see one of the deceitful aspects of wealth. This man had a lot of stuff, but he also had loneliness, jealousy, frustration, worry and distrust.

This is also vanity, yea, it is a sore travail... This man had sacrificed so much to gain and it didn't even satisfy him.

Verse 9

⁹Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour.

This is an old proverb, similar to the modern cliché that, "two heads are better than one."

Two are better than one... There is something "**better**" than being alone.

Genesis 2:18

¹⁸And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be **alone**; I will make him an help meet for him.

because they have a good reward for their labour... The good return or reward is explained in the following verses. In addition, what is the use of having wealth or nice things, if you can't share

it with anyone? The reward he is speaking of here is a sharing. They can share their successes. In fact, they can even console each other in their failures. Two are better than one, if they are of one accord.

Verse 10

¹⁰ For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up.

For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow... When two work and live together they can help each other in difficult times.

but woe to him that is alone... Because Satan is readiest to assault when none is by to assist.

Verse 11

¹¹ Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone?

The body puts off a certain amount of heat, and two in a bed together can stay warmer than just one. The robe many of the Israelites wore served as a blanket to sleep under, as well. Two blankets are warmer than one. Nights in Israel are cold, especially in winter; and a lone traveler will sleep close to his donkey for warmth. Here may be one of the secrets why Christ sent out his apostles in pairs. Nothing is any more pitiful than a completely isolated human being.

Verse 12

¹² And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.



and a threefold cord is not quickly broken... The cord of three strands was one of the strongest made. Three is even better! Companionship also brings with it protection and security.

1. If one genuine friend is of greater value than riches, how much more two genuine friends?
2. To a strong marriage, children born of that relationship only add increased strength to the family
3. In any relationship, God should be the third partner:

Malachi 2:14

¹⁴ Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant.

These verses show us the great value of human relationships, that two are better than one. Living and working together is a great advantage to living and working alone, and adds these four things to life:

- Productivity (they have a good reward for their labour)
- Help in need (For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow)
- Comfort in life (they will keep warm)
- Safety and security (two shall withstand)

The vanity of popularity and fame with its short life, verses 13-16:

Verse 13

¹³ Better is a poor and a wise child than an old and foolish king, who will no more be admonished.

The "**Better**" of the young man appears to be in his willingness to listen to advice. Such was Solomon when he as a young man became king. The **wise child** is still teachable and is wise enough to realize he needs admonishment, instead an **old foolish king** who has become hardened in his heart, **will no more be admonished**.

Verse 14

¹⁴ For out of prison he cometh to reign; whereas also he that is born in his kingdom becometh poor.

A good example of this is when Joseph was in jail in Egypt for something he did not do, and was brought out of prison to reign as second in command. But the **wise child** of this verse could have been the king who was now old and foolish.

Verse 15

¹⁵ I considered all the living which walk under the sun, with the second child that shall stand up in his stead.

The heir and successor or every prince that shall rise up and take the throne of his father or predecessor, and reign in his stead.

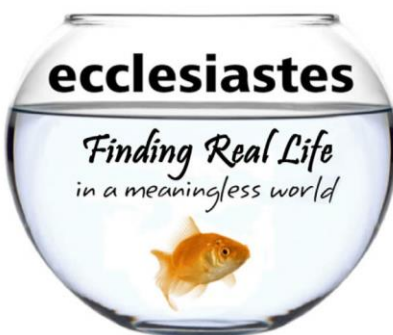
the second child... The Targum interprets this of the foresight Solomon had, by a spirit of prophecy, of those that rebelled against his son Rehoboam, and of those that cleaved unto him, who was his second, and reigned in his stead.

Verse 16

¹⁶ 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.

they also that come after shall not rejoice in him... What a contrast! In one short breath one reads of the multitude thronging to his side, singing his praises and leading him to believe that he is indeed their redeemer. In the same short verse, however, the scene has changed completely and we picture the very next generation asking, "Who is he?" Here we see the unpredictability of the crowd, and the fleeting nature of human popularity.

Pastor Hank's Notes on: Ecclesiastes Or, The Preacher



Ecclesiastes 5

Chapter 5 Outline: Worshipping God reverently, verses 1-3, Keep your vows and fear God, verses 4-7, The enduring fact of oppression and injustice, verses 8-9, Dissatisfaction in the accumulation of wealth, verses 10-12, The uncertainty of wealth, verses 13-17, Making the best of a bad situation under the sun, verses 18-20.

Ecclesiastes 5, Worshipping God reverently, verses 1-3:

Verse 1

1 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.

The house of God is referring to the temple Solomon built in Jerusalem.

2 Chronicles 5:1

1 Thus all the work that Solomon made for **the house of the LORD** was finished: and Solomon brought in all the things that David his father had dedicated; and the silver, and the gold, and all the instruments, put he among the treasures of **the house of God**.

The house of God in the New Testament is the Church.

1 Timothy 3:15

¹⁵ But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in **the house of God, which is the church of the living God**, the pillar and ground of the truth.

Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God... Behavior is in the Bible frequently presented under the figure of walking and running. **Keep thy foot** implies caution in behavior, as opposed to a bold recklessness (running). The idea is to be careful when you come and worship!

1 Timothy 3:15

¹⁵ But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know **how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God**, the pillar and ground of the truth.

and be more ready to hear... Solomon counsels us to come to the house of God to hear more than to speak without thinking.

Proverbs 10:19

¹⁹ In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: **but he that refraineth his lips is wise.**

than to give the sacrifice of fools : for they consider not that they do evil ... The sacrifice of fools would include making pious but meaningless statements and treating lightly that which is holy.

Proverbs 15:8

⁸The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is his delight.

Our modern religious world is bent on pushing for casual and laid back worship services, "Come as you are" is a popular slogan. But God says, "Come, but come carefully, come but come reverently", "Come and leave changed".

Instead of learning about God, some Religious bodies want casual and relaxed classes where every view will be met with an attitude of acceptance. But God says, "Come, and watch what you say, come and be prepared to obey what God says". Unfortunately, in many circles entertainment has replaced true worship. Man says, "Come and feel better about yourself", God says, "Come, and be prepared to obey the will of God". Be prepared to discard sinful ways and attitudes, be prepared to get rid of prejudices and preconceived ideas, be prepared to be rebuked or admonished.

2 Timothy 4:2, A Pastor's job:

²Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine.

Verse 2

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.

Be not rash with thy mouth... Solomon rightly described the human tendency to speak without thinking before God and others.

James 1:19-20

¹⁹Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

²⁰For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

John 4:24

²⁴God is a Spirit: **and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.**

for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth... We need to remember our "place". God is in Heaven, we are on Earth. God is God and we are not! We come to praise him, we come to worship Him, we come to please Him-and not vice versa. Worship tends to become corrupted when men forget that they are the worshippers and not the object of worship.

Verse 3

³For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and a fool's voice is known by multitude of words.

For a dream cometh through the multitude of business... Personal and business cares produce dreams. Dreams are generally the effect of the business in which we have been engaged during the day which are unsubstantial things.

and a fool's voice is known by multitude of words... so many words produce foolish and empty prayers.

Keep your vows and fear God, verses 4-7:

Verse 4

⁴ When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed.

When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it... When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it: Even with an “under the sun” premise, it is both honorable and wise to honor God by keeping one’s word to Him. It would be better not to vow than to vow and not pay.

for he hath no pleasure in fools... The fool is the person who makes promises to God that he or she doesn’t keep. How many of us have played the part of the fool? In the past did we promise to God that we would serve Him better, teach more people, etc.... if He did something for us?

Verse 5

⁵ Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay.

Vows weren’t mandatory in the Old Testament, but once made they were binding. Before you promise anything to God are you sure you can keep that promise? God has a very dim view of those who start to serve Him and then give up. But we live in a society in which talk is cheap. Especially when facing a crisis we often promise all sorts of things to God if only He will see us through this trial in our lives. But once the trial is over, we often forget such fervent promises.

Jesus gives us some advice here in Matthew 5:34-37

³⁴ But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne:

³⁵ Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King.

³⁶ Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black.

³⁷ But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.

Verse 6

⁶ Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands?

Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin... Our words can be sinful. But we have a choice here, "**Suffer not**-Do not let". The person who has an uncontrolled tongue is choosing not to restrain themselves. Meaningless prayers and rash vows are two examples of speech that will cause one to sin.

that it was an error ...The word is that which describes sins of ignorance (Numbers 15).

neither say thou before the angel... The word “**angel**” here is used as a messenger of God; and in this case it is a reference to the priest or other functionary in the Temple in whose presence a vow might have been pledged.

wherefore should God be angry at thy voice... Why provoke God to anger at these frivolous vows and excuses?

and destroy the work of thine hands?... Destroy - Blast all your labors- **the work of thine hands**, and particularly that work or enterprise for the success because of your vow breaking.

Verse 7

⁷ For in the multitude of dreams and many words there are also divers vanities: but fear thou God.

For in the multitude of dreams and many words there are also divers vanities... You must not base your belief on just dreams. The dreams could be from a source other than God.

Deuteronomy 13:2-5

² And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them;

³ Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

⁴ Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him.

⁵ And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; because he hath spoken to turn you away from the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust thee out of the way which the LORD thy God commanded thee to walk in. So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee.

but fear thou God... The worship and service of the holy and righteous God is no flippant or casual business. Approach Him with deep respect. When you pray to God, have something to say. When you make a promise to Him, keep it.

Solomon wrote in Proverbs 1:7

⁷ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

The enduring fact of oppression and injustice, verses 8-9:

Verse 8

⁸ If thou seest the oppression of the poor, and violent perverting of judgment and justice in a province, marvel not at the matter: for he that is higher than the highest regardeth; and there be higher than they.

The Preacher spoke realistically about life under the sun. There is much oppression and perversion of justice. It should surprise no one. Corruption in government, red-tape and bureaucracy is nothing new!

for he that is higher than the highest regardeth... Solomon was especially aware of how bureaucracies within his kingdom can bring oppression. As for moral responsibility, it can be side-stepped....Every official can blame the system...

Government Oppression...



Verse 9

⁹ Moreover the profit of the earth is for all: the king himself is served by the field.

Moreover the profit of the earth is for all... The earth, if properly cultivated, is capable of producing food for every living creature!

the king himself is served by the field... The king is subject to the field, he is dependent on its cultivation. The higher ranks, if they oppress the lower, lose thereby their own means of subsistence.

Without the field the king cannot have supplies for his own house; and, unless agriculture flourish. Thus, God joins the head and feet together; for while the peasant is protected by the king as executor of the laws, the king himself is dependent on the peasant; as the wealth of the nation is the fruit of the laborer's toil.



Dissatisfaction in the accumulation of wealth, verses 10-12:

Verse 10

¹⁰ He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity.

He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver... One of the great passages on the lack of real satisfaction which every greedy person will eventually face. Of all people, Solomon knew that the gathering of riches did not satisfy. He knew, this also is vanity.

Overview of the last few verses:

1. Where injustice and corruption exist, the cause is typically a love of money.
2. Superficial and misdirected religious activity is vain, and so is placing all our hopes in wealth.
3. Greed is something which robs earthly labor of pleasure and satisfaction.

The theme of money has actually already been hit in **Ecclesiastes** a couple of times. It is a frequent subject in the Bible for the exact reason that is it a common problem.

1 Timothy 6:10

¹⁰For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.



Verse 11

¹¹When goods increase, they are increased that eat them: and what good is there to the owners thereof, saving the beholding of them with their eyes?

Solomon was well aware of the complex establishment that grows with growing wealth. Typically the wealthy man is surrounded by a group of people. Wealth makes it necessary not only for the need for legitimate and necessary help such as personal accountants, lawyers, body guards, managers, gardeners, drivers, cooks, maids, etc...(1 Kings). It also attracts undesirable elements, such as fair weather friends, people trying to weasel themselves into your favor, and people constantly asking you for favors. Thus in the end increased wealth often simply brings bigger bills.

This is just another way of saying that, "as people make more money, their expenses also increase." It is even true in the physical sense of the human body itself. It requires much more to feed a fat man than a lean one.

Verse 12

¹²The sleep of a labouring man is sweet, whether he eat little or much: but the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep.

The sleep of a labouring man is sweet... The abundance of the rich will not permit him to sleep: Solomon indulged an envy of the laboring man, who has so much less to worry about. Riches also bring anxiety. The rich man has greater worries and less sleep. His labor is healthy exercise. He is without possessions, and without cares; his sleep, being undisturbed, is sound and refreshing.

The uncertainty of wealth, verses 13-17:

Verse 13

¹³ There is a sore evil which I have seen under the sun, namely, riches kept for the owners thereof to their hurt.

Poor old Solomon. Here he is grieving his heart out that he can't take any of it with him! The sad fact of there never having been any kind of a U-Haul attachment for funeral coaches was viewed by the great wise man as **"a sore evil"**.



1 Timothy 6:7-9

⁷ For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

⁸ And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

⁹ But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

Verse 14

¹⁴ But those riches perish by evil travail: and he begetteth a son, and there is nothing in his hand.

But those riches perish by evil travail... Wealth perishes. This might occur in a hundred different ways, a false partner, an unwise investment, a natural calamity of some kind, a revolution, a bankruptcy, or something else.

and he begetteth a son, and there is nothing in his hand... The riches he had hoarded up, he designed for his son; **but those riches perished** by one means or another, when he comes to die, has nothing to leave his son...

Verse 15

¹⁵ As he came forth of his mother's womb, naked shall he return to go as he came, and shall take nothing of his labour, which he may carry away in his hand.

Even if the above wealth hadn't been lost, it would still be lost at death. Such, greed, trusting in wealth is always a bad investment. Note the word **"nothing"**, at death the greedy man can't even

take one thing with him. Not one trophy, one gold metal, one handful of cash, one prized possession, absolutely nothing.

Job 1:21

²¹And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.

Psalm 49:17

¹⁷For when he dieth he shall carry nothing away: his glory shall not descend after him.

Oh yes we take something with us when we die; but it is invisible, nothing in our cold dead hand. We take our Soul and Spirit, we take with us our character and our conscience. We take with us those treasures which we have laid up "in heaven" (Matthew 6:20-21). We shall also take with us (in the sense that we shall not lose them) those "friends" whom we have made by the proper use of our wealth!

Verse 16

¹⁶And this also is a sore evil, that in all points as he came, so shall he go: and what profit hath he that hath laboured for the wind?

And this also is a sore evil... Meaning, in vain and without profit.

that in all points as he came, so shall he go... Just exactly as he came, so shall he go: Solomon understood that great wealth ultimately means nothing **under the sun**. Man comes with nothing into the world and leaves the same way.

and what profit hath he that hath laboured for the wind?... For riches, which are as unsatisfying as the wind; which are as shifting, and as swift to flee away, as that; and can no more be held.

Verse 17

¹⁷All his days also he eateth in darkness, and he hath much sorrow and wrath with his sickness.

With a sympathetic touch, Solomon tells us the loneliness, sorrow, and anger there is even for those who have great wealth.



Making the best of a bad situation under the sun, verses 18-20:

Verse 18

¹⁸Behold that which I have seen: it is good and comely for one to eat and to drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labour that he taketh under the sun all the days of his life, which God giveth him: for it is his portion.

It is good and fitting for one to eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labor in which he toils under the sun: We sense that Solomon – still very much with the premise of **under the sun** – simply hoped to make the best of a bad situation.

which God giveth him: for it is his portion... God gives every man, in the course of his providence, the necessities of life; and it is his will that he should thankfully use them.

Matthew 6:9-11

⁹ After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

¹⁰ Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

¹¹ **Give us this day our daily bread.**

Verse 19

¹⁹ 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.

Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth... The man or woman who really enjoys the things of this life, is the person who realizes that everything they have is from God. If not for the mercy and grace of God, they realize that they would have absolutely nothing

this is the gift of God... Solomon is just thanking God for all the bountiful world blessings God has bestowed upon him.

Though the Preacher knew that riches did not bring true meaning to life, he was no fool. He understood that it was better to have wealth than to not have it, and **under the sun**, one should enjoy both wealth and the capacity to enjoy it as the gift of God.

Verse 20

²⁰ For he shall not much remember the days of his life; because God answereth him in the joy of his heart.

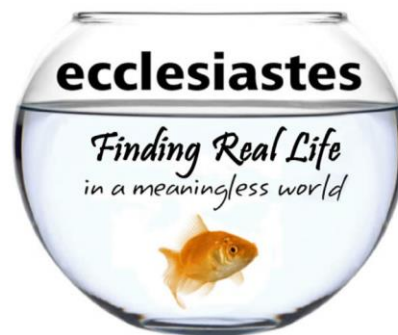
For he shall not much remember the days of his life... The righteous person will not worry over the short **days of his life** and uncertainty or possible troubles of his life. Rather he or she lives each day at a time and makes the most of all the possessions, opportunities and talents which **God** has given them. In addition, such a person realizes that this earthly life is simply a small fraction of their existence, they have a much better life to come!

1 Peter 1:4

⁴ To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

because God answereth him in the joy of his heart... Being occupied with the things of God is a great way to stay mentally and emotionally healthy!

Pastor Hank's Notes on: Ecclesiastes Or, The Preacher



Ecclesiastes 6

Chapter 6 Outline: The weakness of wealth, verses 1-6, What good is wealth at all? verses 7-9, The futility of feeling that nothing can make wealth better, verses 10-12.

Ecclesiastes 6, The weakness of wealth, verses 1-6:

Verse 1

1There is an **evil** which I have seen **under the sun, and it is common among men:**

The **evil** pessimism of Ecclesiastes continues in this chapter with the mention of certain troubles that happen to human beings “**under the sun**”. The things mentioned here in chapter six are indeed sad, **and it was (and still is) common among men.** Solomon himself was often part of the problem and often no part of the solution.

Verse 2

² A man to whom God hath given riches, wealth, and honour, so that he wanteth nothing for his soul of **all that he desireth**, yet God giveth him not power to eat thereof, but a stranger eateth it: this is vanity, and it is an evil disease.

God hath given riches, wealth, and honour, so that he wanteth nothing for his soul of all that he desireth... There is a terrible blindness on the wealthy. That riches were capable of providing for the soul of a man, "all that he desireth." That was exactly the blindness of the rich man mentioned by Jesus who said, "Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry." (Luke 12:19). This is always the blindness of men who are, "not rich toward God" (Luke 12:21). They think that the true “**soul food**” is money and riches!



God giveth him not power to eat thereof, but a stranger eateth it: this is vanity, and it is an evil disease... Solomon saw the tragedy of those who are given great gifts from God – yet they do not have the opportunity to enjoy what God gives. This might have been the result of all kinds of developments. An untimely death from disease, accident, murder, or a hundred other things could have robbed him of his power to enjoy what he had accumulated.



Verse 3

³ 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.

If a man beget an hundred children, and live many years... Solomon is describing a man who had it all! A large family was a great blessing. For a man with 700 wives and 300 concubines, this was by no means an impossibility. As a matter of fact, Gideon fathered 70 sons (Judges 8:30), Ahab had 70 sons (2 Kings 10:1), and Rehoboam had 88 children (2 Chronicles 11:21). Long life was also considered to be (and still is) a great blessing (Psalm 90:10; Ex. 20:10; 1 Kings 3:11, 14).

The Preacher knew that a man could have all the outward signs of a good life – but still not be satisfied with goodness, **“and his soul be not filled with good”**.

1 Kings 3:11-12 (This is about Solomon)

¹¹ And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment;

¹² Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee.

and his soul be not filled with good... Yes, you can have it all, and still be completely unhappy.

and also that he have no burial... To be deprived of burial was considered by the Jews one of the greatest dishonors that could be inflicted on a human being.

Jeremiah 16:4

⁴ They shall die of grievous deaths; they shall not be lamented; neither shall they be buried; but they shall be as dung upon the face of the earth: and they shall be consumed by the sword, and by famine; and their carcasses shall be meat for the fowls of heaven, and for the beasts of the earth.

I say, that an untimely birth is better than he... The man who experiences such a life is worse off than a stillborn child. At least the child never experienced the vanity of life and its frustrations.

“In spite of family, longevity and fame, life may so miscarry as to incur life-long dissatisfaction and an unmourned death.” – Tyndale Commentaries

Verse 4

⁴For he cometh in with vanity, and departeth in darkness, and his name shall be covered with darkness.

The stillborn or miscarriage comes in futility, i.e. comes for no purpose. The miscarriage or stillborn is (still to this day) often buried without a ceremony, often the child isn't even named, or if he or she is named, the name is quickly forgotten because the child never had a chance to make a name for himself.

Verse 5

⁵Moreover he hath not seen the sun, nor known any thing: this hath more rest than the other.

Moreover he hath not seen the sun, nor known any thing... The stillborn or miscarriage never knows anything of this life or never knows what life is like.

this hath more rest than the other... That is, the stillborn or miscarriage has more rest than the covetous wealthy man; having never been distressed with the troubles of life.

“What a depressing comparison Solomon is making between a baby born dead and a wealthy depressed man... At least the wealthy rich man had a chance, a challenge and a choice on how to live his life!” – Pastor Hank

Verse 6

⁶Yea, though he live a thousand years twice told, yet hath he seen no good: do not all go to one place?

Yea, though he live a thousand years twice told... Even after 2000 years of life and experience- and he still doesn't get it! So much for the idea that this life could provide oneself with lasting happiness, if I just had enough, or if I just had enough time...

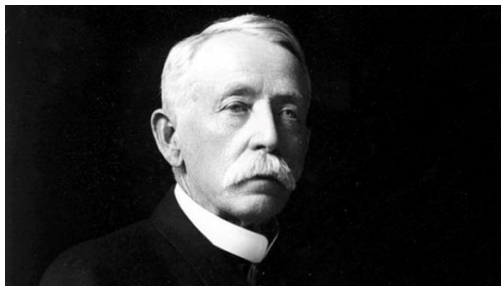
If Only I Had the Time...

1. Time doesn't necessary cause us to mature. Maturity and spirituality just don't happen naturally or without any effort (Hebrews 5:12).

Hebrews 5:12

¹²For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

2. Some people think **that given enough time greedy people would finally out-grow their greed and finally wake up to the important things in life.** But God says, that a person could live 2000 years and still fail to realize what this life is all about!



Wellington R. Burt is the sort of generous benefactor who usually exists only in daydreams — the long-lost relative you never met who leaves you millions of dollars.

In 1919, Burt was a greedy multimillionaire who didn't want to see his family get its hands on the vast fortune he'd amassed as a lumber baron. He therefore made an unusual stipulation in his will — he barred most of his money from his estate being distributed until 21 years after the death of his last grandchild. The most that any of Burt's immediate family ever received out of the estate he once referred to as “the golden egg” was a \$30,000 annual payment to a “favorite son.” The other children were left with anything from \$1,000 to \$5,000 a year — amounts similar to what Burt left his secretary, housekeeper, chauffeur and cook.

In 2011, when the strange conditions of that will were finally met, 12 of Burt's lucky descendants split a fortune estimated at about \$100 million.

When Burt died at 87, he was one of the eight richest men in America, as well as a former mayor of the city and Michigan state senator. Most likely as a result of a family conflict at the time, he did not want to leave any substantial amount of his money to his immediate family.

His last grandchild died in 1989. 12 descendants will split the fortune, estimated at \$100 million to \$110 million, but it wasn't until 2010 that a group of Burt's descendants began the legal proceedings to reach an agreement to disburse his fortune. Thirty of them applied to claim a piece of the pie, but genealogical research whittled them down to the lucky group of 12. The recipients, who range in age from 19 to 94, have succeeded where others could not — that group either was banned from receiving a large inheritance by Burt's will, or died in the 92-year waiting period before an agreement was finally reached.



Hetty Green was a familiar and sad sight who walked the streets of New York. With her grim face and strange dress, everyone took pity on the poor woman who was known as “The Witch of Wall Street.” What the populace didn't know is that Hetty was worth \$3.8 billion (in today's dollars).

Hetty was born into wealth, the only daughter of a financier who trained her to handle money shrewdly from a young age, and read her stock market reports as other parents read bedtime stories.

Hetty was a magnet for money. She oversaw tremendous real estate deals, bought and sold railroads, and made loans. She was particularly adept at prospering during the downfall of others; buying falling stocks, foreclosing properties, and even holding entire banks, entire cities, at her mercy through enormous loans. Depending who you asked, she was either a brilliant strategist or a ruthless loan shark.

At 33, Hetty married and produced two children, but the marriage was short-lived. After the marriage ended, her ex's finances and health rapidly declined. She refused to fit the mold of a complete villain however, and nursed her husband through his dying months.

The children also did not fare well with Hetty as their mother. Daughter Sylvia wore cast-off clothes and made few friends. She mostly silently shadowed Hetty, sleeping next to her on a cot in whatever rented room they happened to be living in. Her son, Ned, suffered even more. When he was a teenager, he was struck by a cart that was pulled by a St. Bernard. Ned's leg was badly injured and Hetty took her son to a free clinic in the city. Unfortunately, when the doctors demanded payment (Hetty was recognizable at this point) she took Ned home. Ned's leg injury worsened and eventually the limb had to be amputated. (Needless to say, Hetty was frugal in regard to her own health – her solution to a bulging hernia had been to jam a stick against the swelling, held in place by her underwear and the pressure of her own leg.)

Hetty died at 81 and her children inherited her vast wealth. Sylvia continued to live an austere lifestyle, but Ned burned the candle at both ends. When Ned died in 1936, he had miraculously managed to maintain a decent fortune, and left the majority to his sister, Sylvia.

And what did Sylvia do with the money? She performed an act of rebellion, perhaps her only one.

She gave what was left of the fortune, around \$443 million at the time of her death in 1951, entirely to charity. **If Only I Had the Time continued...**

3. So much for the idea that people end up lost because God didn't give them enough time (Romans 2:1).

Romans 2:1

1 Therefore **thou art inexcusable, O man**, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.

4. If God had allowed mankind to live for the beginning of Creation to the end of this Creation, the percentage of those who obey God probably wouldn't change much.

5. Prior to the flood men lived for hundreds of years and yet such people-far from being godly or mature were extremely wicked (Genesis 6:1-6).

6. This verse also tells us that a person must make a firm decision to change-or they will never change. Too many people are hoping that they will just kind of naturally become a better person, or that their sinful habits will just kind of naturally go away, and that over time temptation will just kind of naturally lose its appeal. Not so!

7. This is why if you are going to change your life, repent or become a Christian, then you need to act today: "behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor.6:2).

do not all go to one place?.. The "one place", spoken of here, is the grave. Yes, all flesh goes to the grave. It was made of dust, and will return to dust.

What good is wealth at all? Verses 7-9:

Verse 7

⁷ All the labour of man is for his mouth, and yet the appetite is not filled.

All the labor of man is for his mouth, and yet the soul is not satisfied: Man works for the very bread he eats, yet it does not satisfy his soul. Solomon sensed what Moses had already said and Jesus later repeated: Man does not live by bread alone (Deuteronomy 8:3, Matthew 4:4).

Matthew 4:4

⁴ But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Verse 8

⁸ For what hath the wise more than the fool? what hath the poor, that knoweth to walk before the living?

For what hath the wise more than the fool?... What more has the wise man than the fool? Wisdom itself can't fill a hungry man's stomach. For all the superiority of the wise man compared to the fool, they both get hungry. Being wise isn't as much of an advantage as commonly thought.

Even with all of man's praised discoveries, achievements, inventions, etc., there is an epic tragedy of human life on earth continually lived out in the lives of uncounted millions of people. Millions of children annually die without proper food from malnutrition and starvation. Disease and death are rampant in all lands. Oh yes, the average life-span has been increased a little; but it remains only a small fraction of what God intended, as evidenced in the lives of Adam and many of the patriarchs. What is wrong? Just one thing. Man's wickedness.

what hath the poor, that knoweth to walk before the living?... The poor man who doesn't use his poverty as an excuse to break the law or sin. The hard working blue color worker who is a good neighbor. The man who knows how to behave himself in the company of his fellowman.

Verse 9

⁹ Better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of the desire: this is also vanity and vexation of spirit.

Better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of the desire... One can actually see is always better than what one merely desires.

"Better aim at what lies in view than hanker after dreams" John Knox.

"A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush" - John Ray's A Hand-book of Proverbs, 1670

Too many of us spend too much time daydreaming for what we consider to be the ideal _____, instead of realizing the true wealth and enjoyment which is right before our eyes.

The futility of feeling that nothing can make wealth better, verses 10-12:

Verse 10

¹⁰ That which hath been is named already, and it is known that it is man: neither may he contend with him that is mightier than he.

That which hath been is named already... Whatever is, was long ago given its name by man, **and it is known that it is man...** The nature of man is known.

The idea appears to be that it is useless to argue against any of the truths which Solomon has noted. For the nature of man doesn't change.

neither may he contend with him that is mightier than he... This verse appears to be God. Man often will attempt to dispute with God or outright deny His entire existence. But man can't win an argument with God, man can't change the mind of God concerning things which are right and wrong.

Solomon is making the point that it is pointless to argue with the truths being presented. Your arguments can't change reality, you cannot be something other than "man". A person may try to argue that they can be completely happy without God, or that God has given them nothing or they owe Him nothing, but such arguments are pointless and false.

Verse 11

¹¹ Seeing there be many things that increase **vanity**, what is man the better?

There are many human arguments which in the end are only **vanity**. All that has been said in this and the preceding chapters; such as wisdom and knowledge, wealth and riches, pleasure, power, and authority.

what is man the better?.. Man is a poor vain creature himself, all he is and has is vanity; and these serve but to increase it, and make him vainer and vainer still.

Verse 12

¹² 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?

For who knoweth what is good for man in this life, all the days of his vain life... Here we see the folly of worshipping human wisdom, since human wisdom is so limited that it can't even predict what will happen tomorrow, not to mention years from now.

Concluding Thoughts... What Solomon has been writing about in the last couple of chapters.

The wise, rich, wealthy but yet unhappy man has concerned himself with many problems that concern tomorrow and the future:

Who will come after him?

To whom will he really leave all that he has collected and gathered?

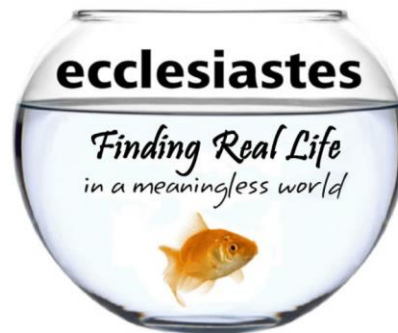
What if he has no son to carry on?

Will he receive a proper burial?

What will people think of him when he has died?

These and many other questions continually trouble his mind.

Pastor Hank's Notes on: Ecclesiastes Or, The Preacher



Ecclesiastes 7

Chapter 7, Ecclesiastes 7:1-29 – Trying to Find a Better Way. Chapter 7 Outline: Life and Death, verses 1-4, Wisdom and Folly, verses 5-9, Wisdom answers back, verses 10-12, Wisdom in considering God, verse 13-14, Living a better life under the sun - Dangers along the way, verses 15-18, The need for Wisdom, verses 19-22, Frustration in seeking wisdom, verses 23-25, Searching for wisdom, the Preacher sees man's sinfulness, verses 26-29.

Ecclesiastes 7, Life and Death, verses 1-4:

Verse 1

1 A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth.

A good name is, probably, the most valuable thing a person can have (in the physical). The only things that are more important are our relationship with God and our families.

A good name means you have a good reputation. "Reputation" means "Being held in good opinion (or bad) by others." The Webster's 1828 dictionary gives these examples: 1. A good name: the credit, honor or character which is derived from a favorable public opinion or esteem. 2. Character by report, in a good or bad sense; ...in other words, our reputation is built on who we are, not by a onetime act necessarily, but who we are consistently.

In The Bible a "good reputation" is called a "good report".

Acts 10:22

²² And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of **good report** among all the nation of the Jews, was warned from God by an holy angel to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee.

A good name is better than precious ointment... It is a blessing to children, when they are left an honorable name by their father and mother. They are one step ahead of creating a good name for themselves. At least, everyone expects them to be of good character, when their parents have a good character. It is very nice to smell good, but more important is a person's character. The world is filled with good smelling people, people who are able to afford costly perfumes who have rotten reputations. Our society has forgotten the importance of a good name, in fact, our society seems to glorify, reward and praise people who have bad reputations.

Watch your Good Name... *Three Quiet Brothers on Long Island, All of Them Related to Hitler*

New York Times, By COREY KILGANNON, APRIL 24, 2006

The Long Island landscaper peeked out the door. It was another visitor arriving with a notebook, a press pass and the H-word on his lips, another journalist asking about his great-uncle Adolf.

The visitor asked the landscaper about his father, who was born William Patrick Hitler, son of Alois Hitler Jr., who was Adolf Hitler's half-brother (they shared the same father). Alois called his son Willy. The Führer called Willy "my loathsome nephew."

Willy Hitler was born in 1911 in Liverpool, and in his early years occasionally sought to take advantage of his last name, in England, Germany and then America, where he moved in 1939. After World War II, though, he decided to change the name and moved from New York City out to Patchogue on Long Island. He raised four sons -- Alexander, Louis, Howard and Brian -- before he died in 1987 at age 76.

Howard died in a car accident in 1989. The other brothers continued low-profile jobs, Alexander as a social worker, Louis and Brian with their own landscaping business. They are regular Long Island guys, middle-aged and middle class, two of them living together. They are also the last members of Adolf Hitler's paternal bloodline.

They have moved away from the two-story clapboard house where they grew up on Silver Street in Patchogue, where their father ran a diagnostic blood lab. To their former neighbors in Patchogue, much about them and their upbringing seemed all-American -- even aggressively so -- but some of those neighbors remember a family just a little bit apart from everyone else, speaking German at home, and a patriarch with the slightest, just the slightest, resemblance to a certain dark figure in history.

Since all four brothers were childless, **it was because of a pact to end the Hitler name and bloodline...**

and the day of death than the day of one's birth... Of course, such a day is only better for the person who is prepared to meet God in judgment. The day of death is better than the day of one's birth, because there are a lot of problems and heartaches in this world. When we die (if we are saved) those troubles and heartaches are over.

2 Timothy 4:6-8

⁶For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

⁷I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

⁸Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

Revelation 14:13

¹³And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

Some Spurgeon Gems:

"Death is the end of dying. On the day of the believer's death dying is for ever done with. The saints who are with God shall never die any more. Life is wrestling, struggling; but death is the end of conflict: it is rest-victory."

“Consider it spiritually, and, dear brethren, what is a good name? A good name is a name that is written in the Lamb’s book of life, and that is better than the sweetest of all ointments.”

Proverbs 10:7

⁷ The memory of the just is blessed: but the name of the wicked shall rot.

Revelation 20:15

¹⁵ And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

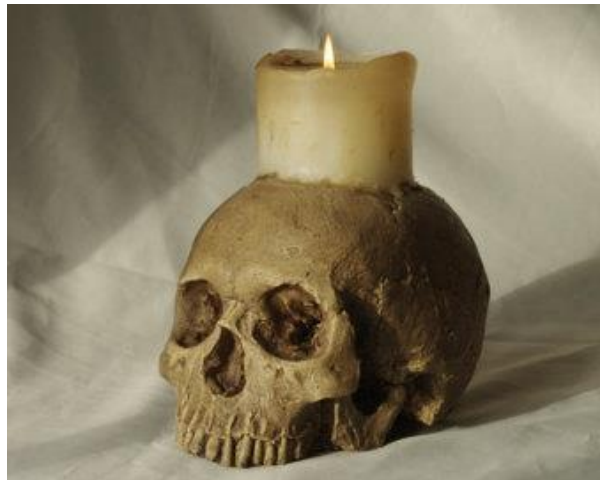
Question: Which do you think was more important: The birth or death of Jesus?

Verse 2

² It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart.

It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting... In Biblical times, funeral celebrations lasted several days; and the “house of mourning” here refers to such celebrations. Why should this be called 'better' than going to the house of feasting? Going to the house of mourning is useful because the living are confronted with the fact that death is also their own destiny; and it is certain. **Every funeral is a prophecy of one's own death and burial.**

Some of the old Monks always read their Bibles with a candle stuck in a skull. The light from a death’s head may be an awful one, but it is a very profitable one.



and the living will lay it to his heart... By going to the house of mourning, he will be put in mind of death, and will think of it seriously, and consider his latter end, how near it is; and that this must be his case someday, as is the deceased's he comes to mourn for. Words concerning death, or discourses of mortality when one hears, takes notice of and lays to his heart.

Actually, we have this reversed. We rejoice when someone is born, and mourn when they die.

Some Thoughts on Death and Observing The End of One’s Life:

What has the death of a loved one taught you?

- That God made love stronger than sorrow so we could continue. And that how we live is what’s important, not how we die.

- That death digs a huge hole in you so you can hold more love and light.
- Death makes you hold onto memories...no matter how small or how big, sad or happy, it's the memory that will keep that friend or loved one alive to you forever.
- That you can endure and move on, but you never get over it. It becomes a part of who you are.
- That life is short regardless of the numbers of years. To make sure you are living a life that is true to yourself, good for others and pleasing to God.
- That you should always take that extra five minutes to tell the people you love that they matter to you! That there is 24 hours in a day and you should use it wisely!
- You will never see a person's true self until they show you how they grieve.
- That you don't want to take life for granted. Live well. Play hard. Laugh. Love, love, love.
- That you don't have to leave important things for tomorrow... like being with the ones you love and telling them how you feel... and listening to them and helping them.
- We're meant to lose the people we love. How else would we know how important they are to us?"
- Losing people in LIFE makes you stronger for the times that you need to be there for people who are here in life. Every one of us has a special purpose for why we are here. As silly as it sounds, it's our goal to find it out.
- Live in the moment, remember the memories, make your own future and memories with those around you. "Under the Sun" nothing else matters but the love shared between family and friends.
- Always keep God in your life!

Five Things We Learn About Death When Death Comes Knocking on Our Door:

1) When death comes close to you, everything else in life seems so minor

That's the truth. We begin to, "See the bigger picture". Work, money, career or dealing with people all suddenly become so insignificant in the grand scheme of things. Dealing with God is the true "Big Picture"...

2) Care for yourself, more than anything in this world.

Go to the Doctor, take your Medicine, Fight, Pray...

3) Realize that life is really short.

Life is also very unpredictable. You never know what Life or Death can throw to you.

That being said, what do you want to do with life?

All too often people are too caught up with the world to realize that our life, is not the world. The world is big, but our lives are short. If you haven't lived, start living. Start living, before it's too late.

4) Make a positive change for yourself, and those around you.

Die Happy, don't die bitter...

5) Love your _____.

The Top 10 Regrets Of The Dying:

Written By: Bronnie Ware, a Nurse. Many of her dying patients listed this as their biggest regrets:

1. **“I WISH I LIVED FOR MYSELF MORE”**
2. **“I WISH I DIDN’T WORK SO HARD.”**
3. **“I WISH I DIDN’T HOLD BACK MY FEELINGS.”**
4. **“I WISH I STAYED IN TOUCH.”**
5. **“I WISH I WAS HAPPIER.”**
6. **“I WISH I CARED LESS OF WHAT OTHERS THINK.”**
7. **“I WISH I DIDN’T WORRY SO MUCH.”**
8. **“I WISH I TOOK BETTER CARE OF MYSELF.”**
9. **“I WISH I DIDN’T TAKE LIFE FOR GRANTED.”**
10. **“I WISH I LIVED IN THE NOW”**

It’s Not To Late! Some Simple Life Changes for Happiness and Wellness:

1. **Exercise More.** 2. **Sleep More.**
3. **Move Closer to Work or if Retired Move closer to the things you love. Avoid the “Commute”.**
4. **Spend Time with Friends and Family.**
5. **Go Outside.**
6. **Help Others, Volunteer.** 100 hours per year (or two hours per week) is the optimal time we should dedicate to helping others in order to enrich our lives.
7. **Practice Smiling.** 8. **Plan a Trip.** 9. **Pray.**
10. **Practice Gratitude.** Writing letters of gratitude increased participants’ happiness and life satisfaction, while decreasing depressive symptoms.
11. **Read a Book a Week.** 12. **Live for God!**

Verse 3

³ Sorrow is better than laughter: for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better.

Sorrow is better than laughter... Solomon is still contrasting the house of mourning with the house of feasting (verse 2); but this does not mean that Christians should not attend such things as wedding feasts and other joyful celebrations. Christ attended a marriage feast in Cana and made wine from water to aid the celebration! In this connection, it is good to remember!

We should not take Solomon's words either literally or absolutely. They are not laws of infallible truth. To treat them this way is to err in their application. The warning here is for those who wanted only the parties and the good times, and who reflectively avoided all sad and sorrowful occasions. The wise man partakes of both.

Sorrow is better than laughter... We don't always learn on the mountain top, sometimes we learn in the valley.

Psalm 119:71

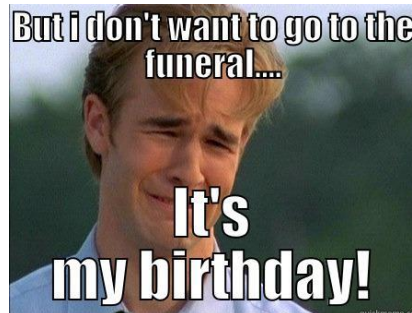
⁷¹ It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.

for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better... when the sadness is not hypocritical, as in the Scribes and Pharisees, but serious and real, arising from proper reflections on things in the mind; whereby the heart is drawn off from vain, carnal, and sensual things

Verse 4

⁴ The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.

"A wise man loves those occasions from which he can derive spiritual advantage; and therefore prefers visiting the sick, and sympathizing with those who have suffered privations by death. But the fool - the gay, thoughtless, and giddy - prefers places and times of diversion and amusement. Here he is prevented from seriously considering either himself or his latter end. The grand fault and misfortune of youth." – Adam Clarke



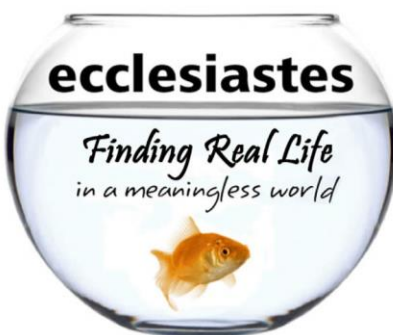
The heart... Long after the funeral is over, the wise man is still thinking about life and death. The fool says, "I couldn't wait to get out of there, I need a stiff drink". Many people seem determined to live a life of denial. No matter where the fool is, he or she mentally wants to be thinking about superficial and shallow things. But life and death, heaven and hell are never far from the mind of the righteous.

Some Concluding Thoughts:

It is important that we make note of the fact that the book of Ecclesiastes was written by Solomon in his later years. After he had tirelessly pursued to find the purpose and meaning of life in so many different things: in wisdom, in wealth, in fame, in building, in pleasures. And after his pursuit, which carried him into every area and experience of life, he came up with the conclusion that life is empty and frustrating. Solomon made the mistake of searching for purpose in life under the sun. And if your purpose is limited to under the sun, chances are you will come up, as Solomon, with the conclusion that life is a mistake. That it is not worthwhile. That everything is only filled with emptiness and frustration.

But God did not intend for you to live a life under the sun. God intended that you should experience real life in the Son. In First John we read, "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." (John 5:11-12). There is real life. There is real meaning and purpose to life. When you find the life in Jesus Christ.

Pastor Hank's Notes on: Ecclesiastes Or, The Preacher



Ecclesiastes 7

Chapter 7, Ecclesiastes 7:1-29 – Trying to Find a Better Way. Chapter 7 Outline: Life and Death, verses 1-4, Wisdom and Folly, verses 5-9, Wisdom answers back, verses 10-12, Wisdom in considering God, verse 13-14, Living a better life under the sun - Dangers along the way, verses 15-18, The need for Wisdom, verses 19-22, Frustration in seeking wisdom, verses 23-25, Searching for wisdom, the Preacher sees man's sinfulness, verses 26-29.

Ecclesiastes 7, Wisdom and Folly, verses 5-9:

Verse 5

⁵ It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools.

It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise... To listen to it diligently, receive it warmly, and act according to it; though it may be disagreeable to the flesh, and give present pain, yet the effect and issue will be good, and show that man to be wise that **hears** it, as well as he that gives it.

than for a man to hear the song of fools... Were popular worldly songs (100 bottles of beer on the wall, etc...). This type of song is usually accompanied with drinking or drugs. These type of songs encourage one to sin. The world is filled with many such songs, often irreverent, boisterous, reckless, immodest and immoral.

Get Drunk and Be Somebody, By Toby Keith



Yeah the big boss man, he likes to crack that whip
 I ain't nothing but a number on his time card slip,
 I give him forty hours and a piece of my soul,
 Puts me somewhere at the bottom of his totem pole,
 Hell I don't even think he knows my name...
 Well all week long I'm a real nobody,
 But I just punched out and its paycheck Friday,
 Weekends here, good God almighty,
 I'm going to get drunk and be somebody, Yeah, yeah, yeah...

They did the same Song of Fools in Bible times: Amos 6:5-6

⁵ That chant to the sound of the viol, and invent to themselves instruments of musick, like David;

⁶ That drink wine in bowls, and anoint themselves with the chief ointments: but they are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph.

Verse 6

⁶ For as the crackling of thorns under a pot, so is the laughter of the fool: this also is vanity.

In the Hebrew, there is a pun or play on words here. "For as the crackling of thorns under a pot". In the Middle East, and where wood is scarce, thorns, hay and stubble are used for fuel. Such materials are quickly kindled, blaze up for a time with much noise, and soon die away. The point of comparison is the loud crackling and the short duration of the fire with small results. So the fool's laughter is boisterous and noisy, but comes to a speedy end, and is spent to no good purpose.

Signs of a Fool:

1. Fools are Self-Absorbed. Fools generally think that they are right all the time. Self-reliance is a good thing in life, being overconfident in one's own view and ability is seen to be a foolish path.

Proverbs 12:15

¹⁵ The way of a **fool** is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.

2. Fools are Quick-Tempered. One aspect of the fool is that he is quick to rise to anger. He is hasty and ill-judged in his reactions.

Proverbs 12:16

¹⁶ A **fool's** wrath is presently known: but a prudent man covereth shame.

3. Fools are Trouble Makers.

Proverbs 20:3

³ It is an honour for a man to cease from strife: but every **fool** will be meddling.

4. Fools are Babblers. One of the key themes of the book of Proverbs is the nature of communication, i.e., the importance of the careful selection of words, knowing when to speak and when to be silent, avoiding gossip and too much. The fool, unsurprisingly, engages in too much talk and does not know when to stop.

Proverbs 10:8

⁸ The wise in heart will receive commandments: but a **prating fool** shall fall.

Prating: To talk foolishly.

5. Fools would rather try to buy wisdom than learn.

Proverbs 17:16

¹⁶ Wherefore is there a price in the hand of a **fool** to get wisdom, seeing he hath no heart to it?

6. Fools aren't good with Money.

Proverbs 21:20

²⁰ There is treasure to be desired and oil in the dwelling of the wise; but a **foolish** man spendeth it up.

7. You can't Trust a Fool. Trusting a fool to convey a message is like cutting off one's feet or drinking poison! A proverb in the mouth of a fool is as useless as a paralyzed leg.

Proverbs 26:6-7

⁶ He that sendeth a message by the hand of a **fool** cutteth off the feet, and drinketh damage.

⁷ The legs of the lame are not equal: so is a parable in the mouth of **fools**.

8. Fools walk in Darkness.

Ecclesiastes 2:14

¹⁴ The wise man's eyes are in his head; but the **fool** walketh in darkness: and I myself perceived also that one event happeneth to them all.

9. Fools Reject God...

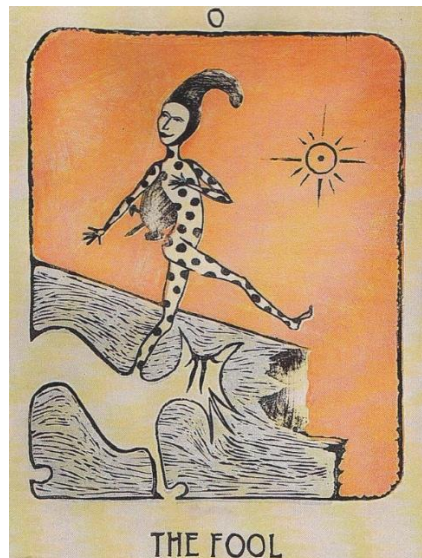
Psalms 14:1

1 The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.

10. A Fool has no one to blame but himself...

Proverbs 18:7

⁷ A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul.



Verse 7

⁷ Surely oppression maketh a wise man mad; and a gift destroyeth the heart.

Surely oppression maketh a wise man mad... The word **oppression** means: violence, injury, oppression demonstrated by defrauding, extortion, fraud and unjust gain. Not only does such evil frustrate the wise men, but when wise men yield to the temptation to abuse others or their power, they will cease to be wise men.

a gift destroyeth the heart... A Gift = A Bribe. Even a wise person can be made a fool when money becomes involved.

The New York Times

Dean Skelos, Ex-New York Senate Leader, and His Son Are Convicted of Corruption

By WILLIAM K. RASHBAUM and SUSANNE CRAIG DEC. 11, 2015



State Senator Dean G. Skelos and his son, Adam, left the federal courthouse in Manhattan after the verdict on Friday.

Dean G. Skelos, the former majority leader of the New York Senate, and his son were found guilty of federal corruption charges on Friday, a quick and devastating follow-up punch to the State Capitol, which has seen two entrenched leaders convicted and removed from office in less than two weeks.

The jury in Federal District Court in Manhattan took roughly eight hours over two days to reach its verdict against Senator Skelos, 67, and his son, Adam B. Skelos, 33, finding them guilty of all eight bribery, extortion and conspiracy counts.

The Skeloses were undone by the perversion of a simple fatherly impulse: There was little that the elder Skelos would not do, or ask, for his son. They used the father's position as majority leader to pressure a Manhattan developer, an environmental technology company and a medical malpractice insurer to provide Adam Skelos with roughly \$300,000 via consulting work, a no-show job and a direct payment of \$20,000.

Judge Wood also imposed a \$500,000 fine — the amount sought by the government — on the former senator, as well as a \$334,120 forfeiture to be paid jointly by him and his son. Prosecutors had noted that Dean Skelos had built a net worth of more than \$2 million during his nearly three decades in the Senate, and had also applied for a state pension of almost \$96,000 a year.

Dean Skelos was Sentenced to 5 Years in Prison, Adam 6 ½ years in the Corruption Case.

Isaiah 33:15-16

¹⁵ He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of **bribes**, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil;

¹⁶ He shall dwell on high: his place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure.

Verse 8

⁸ Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.

Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof... The end is better because we can form a right judgment about a matter; we see what its purpose was; we know whether it has been advantageous and prosperous or not. The end of a wicked ruler's reign is, of course, better than the beginning of it (Obama, oops...). We need to remember that for the Christian, the point isn't finishing first, but finishing (Hebrews 12:1-4). Momentary setbacks should never discourage us, for we might lose a number of battles, but what counts is winning the war (Romans 2:7). A good beginning can often make people proud or over-confident (1 Corinthians 10:12). A slow start can be discouraging. Much can change before life is through.

and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit... The proud in spirit do not receive instruction very well. Those who are patient will make fewer mistakes.

The Benefits of Being a Patient Person

Good things really do come to those who wait. [By Kira M. Newman | April 5, 2016](#)

Patience is essential to daily life—and might be key to a happy one. Having patience means being able to wait calmly in the face of frustration or adversity, so anywhere there is frustration or adversity—i.e., nearly everywhere—we have the opportunity to practice it. At home with our kids, at work with our colleagues, at the grocery store with half our city's population, patience can make the difference between annoyance and equanimity, between worry and tranquility.

Religions and philosophers have long praised the virtue of patience; now researchers are starting to do so as well. Recent studies have found that, sure enough, good things really do come to those who wait. Some of these science-backed benefits are detailed below:

1. Patient people enjoy better mental health.

This finding is probably easy to believe if you call to mind the stereotypical impatient person: face red, head steaming. And sure enough, according to a 2007 study by Fuller Theological Seminary professor Sarah A. Schnitker and UC Davis psychology professor Robert Emmons, patient people tend to experience less depression and negative emotions, perhaps because they can cope better with upsetting or stressful situations. They also rate themselves as more mindful and feel more gratitude, more connection to mankind and to the universe, and a greater sense of abundance.

In 2012, Schnitker sought to refine our understanding of patience, recognizing that it comes in many different stripes. One type is interpersonal patience, which doesn't involve waiting but simply facing annoying people with equanimity. In a study of nearly 400 undergraduates, she found that those who are more patient toward others also tend to be more hopeful and more satisfied with their lives.

Another type of patience involves waiting out life's hardships without frustration or despair—think of the unemployed person who persistently fills out job applications or the cancer patient waiting for her treatment to work. Unsurprisingly, in Schnitker's study, this type of courageous patience was linked to more hope.

Finally, patience over daily hassles—traffic jams, long lines at the grocery store, a malfunctioning computer—seems to go along with good mental health. In particular, people who have this type of patience are more satisfied with life and less depressed.

2. Patient people are better friends and neighbors.

Indeed, research suggests that patient people tend to be more cooperative, more empathic, more equitable, and more forgiving. “Patience involves emphatically assuming some personal discomfort to alleviate the suffering of those around us,” write Debra R. Comer and Leslie E. Sekerka in their 2014 study.

“Patience may enable individuals to tolerate flaws in others, therefore displaying more generosity, compassion, mercy, and forgiveness,” write Schnitker and Emmons in their 2007 study.

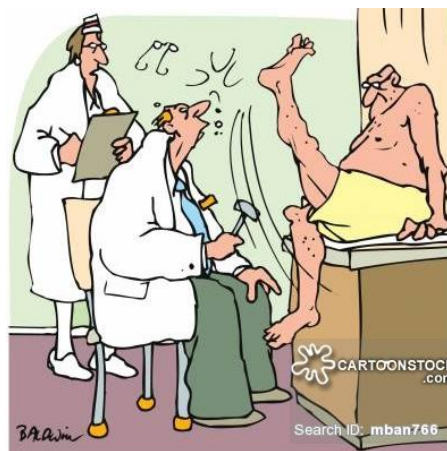
On a group level, patience may be one of the foundations of civil society. Patient people are more likely to vote, an activity that entails waiting months or years for our elected official to implement better policies. In that same vein, patience is linked to trust in the people and the institutions around us.

3. Patience helps us achieve our goals.

The road to achievement is a long one, and those without patience—who want to see results immediately—may not be willing to walk it. Think of the recent critiques of millennials for being unwilling to “pay their dues” in an entry-level job, jumping from position to position rather than growing and learning.

4. Patience is linked to good health

The study of patience is still new, but there’s some emerging evidence that it might even be good for our health. In their 2007 study, Schnitker and Emmons found that patient people were less likely to report health problems like headaches, acne flare-ups, ulcers, diarrhea, and pneumonia. Other research has found that people who exhibit impatience and irritability—a characteristic of the Type A personality—tend to have more health complaints and worse sleep. If patience can reduce our daily stress, it’s reasonable to speculate that it could also protect us against stress’s damaging health effects.



“Reflexes seem normal. You kept him waiting over two hours.”

Verse 9

⁹ Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools.

Here once more Solomon virtually repeats a Proverb he gave in:

Proverbs 14:17

¹⁷ He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly: and a man of wicked devices is hated.

Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry... Hasty = quick to be angry. The idea is that of hastening, in a hurry to be angry. When our attitude isn't right many of us are simply looking for an excuse to get angry, like someone who is just itching for a fight. A very common way of describing this person would be to say he was "hot tempered".

A quick temper in company with frustration is the earmark of **the fool**. Another mark of **the fool** is to welcome, harbor and entertain anger.

Proverbs 25:28

²⁸ He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.



7 Ways Anger Is Ruining Your Health, www.everydayhealth.com

1. An angry outburst puts your heart at great risk. Most physically damaging is anger's effect on your cardiac health. "In the two hours after an angry outburst, the chance of having a heart attack doubles," says Chris Aiken, MD, an instructor in clinical psychiatry at the Wake Forest University School of Medicine and director of the Mood Treatment Center in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

"Repressed anger — where you express it indirectly or go to great lengths to control it, is associated with heart disease," says Dr. Aiken. In fact, one study found that people with anger proneness as a personality trait were at twice the risk of coronary disease than their less angry peers.

To protect your ticker, identify and address your feelings before you lose control. "Constructive anger — the kind where you speak up directly to the person you are angry with and deal with the frustration in a problem-solving manner — is not associated with heart disease," and is actually a very normal, healthy emotion, says Aiken.

2. Anger ups your stroke risk. If you're prone to lashing out, beware. One study found there was a three times higher risk of having a stroke from a blood clot to the brain or bleeding within the

brain during the two hours after an angry outburst. For people with an aneurysm in one of the brain's arteries, there was a six times higher risk of rupturing this aneurysm following an angry outburst.

Some good news: You can learn to control those angry explosions. "To move into positive coping, you need to first identify what your triggers, and then figure out how to change your response," says Mary Fristad, PhD, a professor of psychiatry and psychology at the Ohio State University. Instead of losing your temper, "Do some deep breathing. Use assertive communication skills. You might even need to change your environment by getting up and walking away," says Dr. Fristad.

3. Anger weakens your immune system. If you're mad all the time, you just might find yourself feeling sick more often. In one study, Harvard University scientists found that in healthy people, simply recalling an angry experience from their past caused a six-hour dip in levels of the antibody immunoglobulin A, the cells' first line of defense against infection.

If you're someone who's habitually angry, protect your immune system by turning to a few effective coping strategies. "Assertive communication, effective problem solving, using humor, or restructuring your thoughts to get away from that black-and-white, all-or-nothing thinking — those are all good ways to cope," says Fristad. "But you've got to start by calming down."

4. Anger problems can make your anxiety worse. If you're a worrier, it's important to note that anxiety and anger can go hand-in-hand. In a 2012 study published in the journal *Cognitive Behavior Therapy*, researchers found that anger can exacerbate symptoms of generalized anxiety disorder (GAD), a condition characterized by an excessive and uncontrollable worry that interferes with a person's daily life. Not only were higher levels of anger found in people with GAD, but hostility — along with internalized, unexpressed anger in particular — contributed greatly to the severity of GAD symptoms.

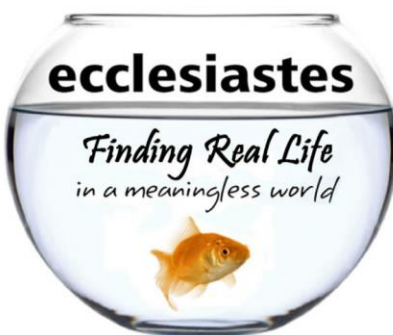
5. Anger is also linked to depression. Numerous studies have linked depression with aggression and angry outbursts, especially in men. Number one piece of advice for someone struggling with depression mixed with anger is to get busy and stop thinking so much.

"Any activity which fully absorbs you is a good cure for anger, such as golf, needlepoint, biking," he says. "These tend to fill our minds completely and pull our focus toward the present moment, and there's just no room left for anger to stir when you've got that going."

6. Hostility can hurt your lungs. Not a smoker? You still could be hurting your lungs if you're a perpetually angry, hostile person. A group of Harvard University scientists studied 670 men over eight years using a hostility scale scoring method to measure anger levels and assessed any changes in the men's lung function. The men with the highest hostility ratings had significantly worse lung capacity, which increased their risk of respiratory problems. The researchers theorized that an uptick in stress hormones, which are associated with feelings of anger, creates inflammation in the airways.

7. Anger can shorten your life. Is it really true that happy people live longer? "Stress is very tightly linked to general health. If you're stressed and angry, you'll shorten your lifespan," says Fristad. A University of Michigan study done over a 17-year period found that couples who hold in their anger have a shorter life span than those who readily say when they're mad. "Learning to express anger in an appropriate way is actually a healthy use of anger," says Fristad. "If someone infringes on your rights, you need to tell them!"

Pastor Hank's Notes on: Ecclesiastes Or, The Preacher



Ecclesiastes 7

Chapter 7, Ecclesiastes 7:1-29 – Trying to Find a Better Way. Chapter 7 Outline: Life and Death, verses 1-4, Wisdom and Folly, verses 5-9, Wisdom answers back, verses 10-12, Wisdom in considering God, verses 13-14, Living a better life under the sun - Dangers along the way, verses 15-18, The need for Wisdom, verses 19-22, Frustration in seeking wisdom, verses 23-25, Searching for wisdom, the Preacher sees man's sinfulness, verses 26-29.

Ecclesiastes 7, Wisdom answers back, verses 10-12:

Verse 10

¹⁰ Say not thou, What is the cause that the former days were better than these? for thou dost not enquire wisely concerning this.

What is the cause that the former days were better than these?... Solomon understood our tendency to romanticize the past (the good old days), and think that it was better than our current time. He cautioned against it, knowing that the meaninglessness of life with his under the sun premise is not a new sensation.

Oh Yea! The Good Old Days... No A/C, No TV, No Computer, No Phone, No Electric, No Washer, Dryer, Dishwasher, No Cable TV...



Wise people certainly learn from the past, but they live in the present with all its opportunities!

Verse 11, THE SUPERIORITY OF WISDOM

¹¹ Wisdom is good with an inheritance: and by it there is profit to them that see the sun.

The **wisdom** praised here is good practical common sense, for such wisdom does have a limit. Like money, this wisdom does have some limited and earthly advantages. Without prudence and foresight (wisdom), an inheritance can be easily lost or squandered. In addition, man's wisdom is more respected by others when a man owns property and other possessions. When accompanied by wisdom, prosperity can be beneficial.

Wealth that is used for good purposes is good. Solomon was a good example of that, because his father David was thought so highly of.

Proverbs 13:22

²² A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just.

Verse 12

¹² For wisdom is a defence, and money is a defence: but the excellency of knowledge is, that wisdom giveth life to them that have it.

Wisdom and money are a **defence** and protection for those who have them here living **under the dun**. Godly wisdom brings eternal life. Knowledge is accumulated learning. The more you study God's Word, the closer you are to Godly wisdom.

John 17:3

³ And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

Wisdom in considering God, verses 13-14:

Verse 13

¹³ Consider the work of God: for who can make that straight, which he hath made crooked?

Consider the work of God... Solomon has not given up belief in God, although he is a pessimist.

for who can make that straight, which he hath made crooked?... This means that, No one can change, with a view to improving it, what God has determined shall be.

for who can make that straight, which he hath made crooked?... Here we see that true **wisdom** won't try to change or deny what God has done. Rather, the truly wise man will submit to and accept how God governs this universe. Since God is Holy, this verse isn't speaking about moral crookedness, but rather of things and events we find awkward, inconvenient or difficult. Instead of resenting and rebelling against the fact that God allows us to suffer, we should use such opportunities wisely.

Verse 14

¹⁴ In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: God also hath set the one over against the other, to the end that man should find nothing after him.

prosperity ... adversity. God ordains both kinds of days and withholds knowledge of the future.

When things are going well, we should be happy and full of praise to God. When we are having troublesome times, we should just do the very best we can and not be disappointed. If we wait, better times will come.

Behind every dark cloud, there is a silver lining. We would not appreciate the sunshine, unless there were cloudy days.

James 1:2-4

² My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

³ Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

⁴ But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

be joyful....consider... God brings both prosperity and recession. When times are good, one should enjoy the prosperity; when times are bad, one should reflect on the fact that this too is from God's hand.

Note the word "**consider**". Instead of complaining, **reflect-consider!** Instead of being tempted to find fault with God's management of this world, learn from the **adversity!**

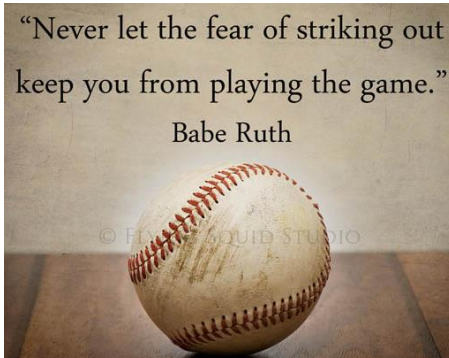
Psalm 119:71

⁷¹ It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.

Remember:

1. Those who can come to terms with the above verse will find peace. Those who can't, are destined to live a life that is frustrating.
2. In good times don't become arrogant, rather be thankful. In hardship, don't abandon or blame God, rather, grasp and learn those lessons which only **adversity** can deliver.
3. But how many people resent the bad times, and then act pessimistic towards the good times because they are always saying, "**This can't last for long, I know something bad is right around the corner**".

to the end that man should find nothing after him... This doesn't apply to the afterlife, for the righteous know what the future holds beyond this life. Rather, this applies to the events in this life (James 4:14). No man can predict the future, God mingles good days and bad, so that man never knows what tomorrow may hold. Such a verse should humble us and clip the wings of our self-sufficiency. We can either rebel against this fact of life, resent it or determine to prove God wrong on this point, or we can accept it, be thankful that we don't have to worry about the future, for such would be pointless, and realize that the unpredictable future is always in the hands of a faithful God. Even the wise can't predict the future. This should be a warning to every investor or forecaster. Just about the time that you think that you have every trend understood, figured out and predicted, God will throw you a curve ball, but remember, He also gave you a Bat!

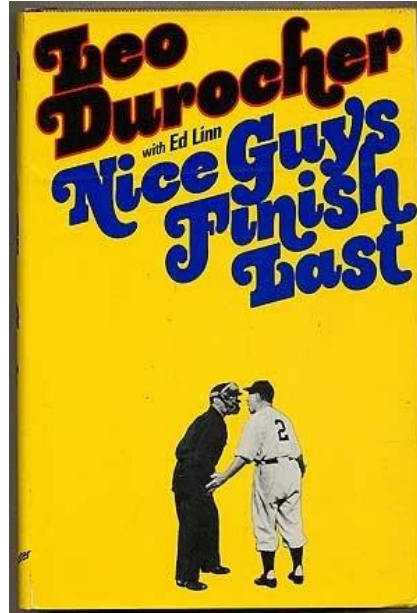


Living a better life under the sun - Dangers along the way, verses 15-18:

Verse 15

¹⁵ 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 longeth his life in his wickedness.

All things have I seen in the days of my vanity... Solomon complained that in his meaningless life he has seen the good suffer (a just man that perisheth in his righteousness) and the wicked prosper (prolongeth his life in his wickedness). Solomon mourns, it isn't fair.



that perisheth in his righteousness... That is, a very godly man who dies prematurely, or whose faithfulness to God is the reason why he is persecuted or killed. The Bible is filled with such men who died early, Abel, John the Baptist, James the brother of John, Jesus, etc...

It's interesting that Solomon here takes issue and go opposite with two Old Testament doctrines:

(1) That the righteous have a long life (Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 4:40; Psalms 91:16; Proverbs 3:2, 16; and 4:10), and

(2) That the wicked shall not live out half their days (Psalms 37:10; 55:23; 58:3-9; and Psalms 73:18).

When Reading or Studying Ecclesiastes, Remember:

- It's a Worldly Book.
- It's an "American" Book. We can all relate to Solomon in some points of Ecclesiastes.
- Ecclesiastes isn't a **Church Doctrine book**, although we will see some Doctrine presented.

The Tone of Ecclesiastes is:

- Solomon is gonna tell you, what he's seen "under the sun".

- If anyone could have told you what's "under the sun", it's Solomon! The man did just about anything and everything a man could do.

- It's a Philosopher looking at life from a Natural Man's point of view.

The first seven chapters of the book of Ecclesiastes describe all of the worldly things "under the sun" that the Preacher tries to find fulfillment in. Chapters 8-12 of Ecclesiastes describe the Preacher's suggestions and comments on how a life should be lived. He comes to the conclusion that without God, there is no truth or meaning to life.

Verses 16-17

¹⁶ Be not righteous over much; neither make thyself over wise: why shouldest thou destroy thyself?

¹⁷ Be not over much wicked, neither be thou foolish: why shouldest thou die before thy time?

In light of the apparent vanity of life, Solomon here recommended a balanced approach to living. Be righteous, but not too much; be wise, but not too much; be wicked, but not too much; be foolish, but not too much. Of course, Solomon isn't saying that a little sin is OK or that sin is fine as long as one sins in moderation. Or that you can be wicked just as long as you aren't really wicked. Chasing after extremes will not prolong one's life or provide the satisfaction one desires.

Solomon had witnessed both situations: those who had died doing righteous deeds and those who had died while sinning—and, what's worse, sinning for a long time while seeming to get away with it. Solomon here is considering the fact that sometimes the good die young while evil men live long, sinful lives. This is a mystery to him and one of the things that add to the "vanity" of a life lived "under the sun".

As a Christian we can't avoid these types of attitudes and life events. We're all sinners and we do wicked things. We all argue, think bad thoughts, do wicked things—it's true, we shouldn't "**over much**" when we do them.

****This is a common approach to life, thinking that everything is good in moderation. This has some truth to it, but does not define a wise or good life. We should remember that both Jesus and Paul were not considered balanced individuals in their day. Their Teachings of Eternity, Being Borned Again and accountability to God made them – in the view of many – **unbalanced**.**

Many of us today feel the same way. Our Friends and Family think we're **unbalanced** because we go to Church, Tithe, Pray...

Verse 18

¹⁸ It is good that thou shouldest take hold of this; yea, also from this withdraw not thine hand: for he that feareth God shall come forth of them all.

The man or woman who fears God will avoid all the extremes or pitfalls in the previous verses. They won't become self-righteous or arrogant and neither will they argue that nice guys finish last.

The need for Wisdom, verses 19-22:

Verse 19

¹⁹ Wisdom strengtheneth the wise more than ten mighty men which are in the city.

Which should remind us that **character** does matter! And that wisdom is often more beneficial and effective than brute force. Wisdom, especially wisdom from God can give you better counsel than 10 kings or 10 prudent statesmen.

Psalm 119:99

⁹⁹ I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation.

Proverbs 21:22

²² A wise man scaleth the city of the mighty, and casteth down the strength of the confidence thereof.

Verse 20

²⁰ For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.

This is the O.T. equivalent of:

Romans 3:10-12

¹⁰ As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

¹¹ There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

¹² They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

We can see from all of the above Scriptures that it is the nature of men to sin. At some time or other, each of us has sinned. The wonderful thing is that Jesus took our sins upon His body on the cross. He became our substitute.

When we receive Jesus as our Savior, we are free from sin. He washed us in His precious blood, and we became righteous in the sight of God. Jesus put us in right standing with God.

Verse 21

²¹ Also take no heed unto all words that are spoken; lest thou hear thy servant curse thee:

Also take no heed unto all words that are spoken... While there are many things that we need to hear and take seriously, the wise man will learn to separate the truth from gossip and idle talk. In fact, Paul instructed Timothy to reject a number of human talkative speculations (1 Timothy 1:4; 4:7; 6:20). In addition, always wanting to know what people think and say about us (especially when we aren't around) is to set up a false standard. The opinions of other men and women don't establish reality, actually, they are the opinions of sinners (verse 20), and what is that worth?

Verse 22

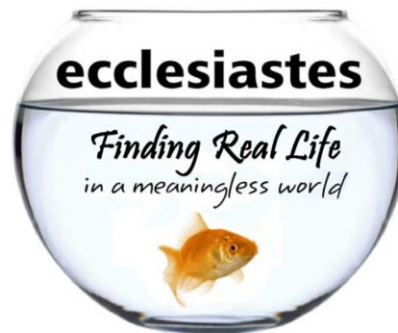
²² For oftentimes also thine own heart knoweth that thou thyself likewise hast cursed others.

How can a person blame someone else for the same sin he has committed himself? If you are honest with yourself, you know you have done a similar thing to what your servant said about you. God will forgive you, if you forgive others. God judges us with the same measure, we judge others.

James 3:9

⁹ Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.

Pastor Hank's Notes on: Ecclesiastes Or, The Preacher



Ecclesiastes 7

Chapter 7, Ecclesiastes 7:1-29 – Trying to Find a Better Way. Chapter 7 Outline: Life and Death, verses 1-4, Wisdom and Folly, verses 5-9, Wisdom answers back, verses 10-12, Wisdom in considering God, verses 13-14, Living a better life under the sun - Dangers along the way, verses 15-18, The need for Wisdom, verses 19-22, Frustration in seeking wisdom, verses 23-25, Searching for wisdom, the Preacher sees man's sinfulness, verses 26-29.

Ecclesiastes 7, Frustration in seeking wisdom, verses 23-25:

Verse 23

²³ All this have I proved by wisdom: I said, I will be wise; but it was far from me.

(Wisdom) but it was far from me... Why would the wisest man of his day have failed to find wisdom? He was searching for it by "Human-Under The Sun-Experience," rather than trusting God for the truth.

Proverbs 9:10

¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

Solomon found that human wisdom fails to find the ultimate answers. This verse could be written on the tomb of every philosopher who has ever lived....

Verse 24

²⁴ That which is far off, and exceeding **deep**, who can find it out?

No human intelligence can attain to perfect wisdom, or to the exact knowledge of God's counsels and-works, and the reasons of them, because they are unsearchably **deep**, and far above our sight; some of them being long since past, and therefore, utterly unknown to us, and others yet to come, which we cannot foreknow.

Verse 25

²⁵ I applied mine heart to know, and to search, and to seek out wisdom, and the reason of things, and to know the wickedness of folly, even of foolishness and madness:

I applied mine heart... Solomon took his heart with him, to resolve and to make further search into wisdom's secrets.

Man has always been Searching Wisdom's Secrets...



Where Wisdom and The Answers of Life are found:



I applied mine heart to know, and to search, and to seek out wisdom... This verse reveals the earnestness and eagerness at which Solomon approached this **search**. This may be a step towards the path of repentance in Solomon's life.

and to know the wickedness of folly, even of foolishness and madness... Solomon sought to clearly and fully understand the great evil of sin, and all that wickedness and folly or madness

which is bound up in the hearts of all men by nature, and which discovers itself in the course of human lives.

Why are there so many TV History Documentaries on WW2, Hitler, Stalin, Mao, etc...? People want to know and search why **to know the wickedness of folly, even of foolishness and madness!**

Searching for wisdom, the Preacher sees man's sinfulness, verses 26-29:

Verse 26

²⁶ And I find more bitter than death the woman, whose heart is snares and nets, and her hands as bands: whoso pleaseth God shall escape from her; but the sinner shall be taken by her.

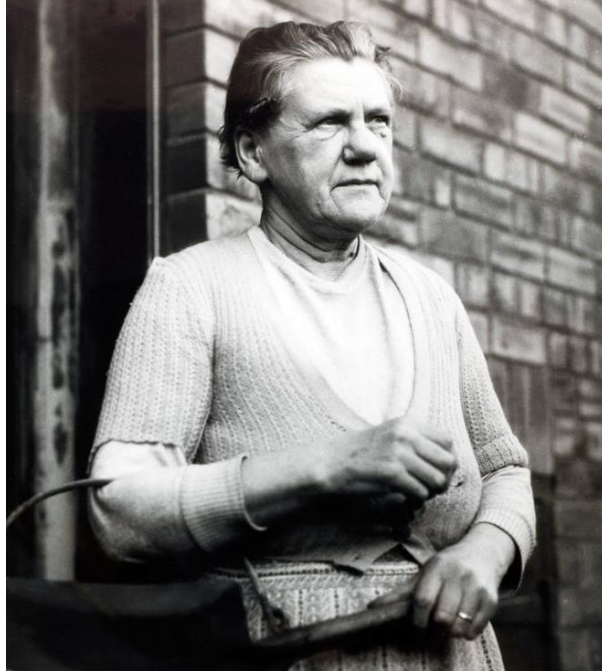
And I find more bitter than death the woman, whose heart is snares and nets... Solomon isn't anti-woman, and neither did he find every woman to be like this, lest we forget what was remember that he wrote in Proverbs 31:10 and 12:4 "Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies".

When Solomon was old, his 700 Wives and 300 Concubines turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the Lord his God. Surely, Solomon himself was caught in these snares and nets of the **death the woman, whose heart is snares and nets...**

The Black Widow wwwwwwwwwwwwwww!!!



Spider cannibalism is the act of a spider consuming all or part of another individual of the same species as food. In the majority of cases the female spider kills and eats a male spider before, during, or after copulation.



Mary Elizabeth Wilson

Between 1955 and 1957, the U.K.'s Mary Elizabeth Wilson loved and lost four husbands, earning herself the title of the “Merry Widow of Windy Nook.” While some of her marriages lasted only a few short weeks, it was enough for her to establish herself as the rightful heir of their estates, inheriting money after each death. It’s not surprising that people started to get suspicious of the happy widow, who had a penchant for dark humor, asking the local undertaker for a discount. According to the BBC, at one of Wilson’s many wedding receptions, her friend asked her: “What shall we do with these sandwiches and cake?” Wilson replied: “We’ll keep them for the funeral.” Police soon caught wise to her actions. The bodies were exhumed and found to contain insecticide. She was sentenced to death in 1958 for murdering two of the husbands.

Wilson was poised to become the last woman hanged in England, however her sentence was reduced to life imprisonment. She died four years later, aged 70, in 1963.

Verses 27-28

²⁷ Behold, this have I found, saith the preacher, counting one by one, to find out the account:

²⁸ Which yet my soul seeketh, but I find not: one man among a thousand have I found; but a woman among all those have I not found.

Solomon’s Mother wanted him to marry a Virtuous Women: Having or showing high moral standards. Righteous, good, pure, whiter than white, saintly, angelic, moral, ethical, upright, upstanding, high-minded, principled, exemplary.

He couldn’t find **one in a thousand**...

Titus 2:3-5

³ The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;

⁴That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,
⁵To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

Verse 4 says here “they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children” A woman has to be taught how to love, why do you think Mommas are killing 5000 babies a day in this country? They haven’t been taught how to love. There’s not a week that goes by that you read in news about Mommas throwing their babies in the dumpster, why? They haven’t been taught how to love...

A Virtuous Woman, loves God, loves her husband, loves her children, loves her Church, wants to do right...

1 Timothy 5:14-15

¹⁴I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.

¹⁵For some are already turned aside after Satan.

When a woman turns to the Devil, she’s not Virtuous...

Proverbs 1:8-9

⁸My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy **mother**:

⁹For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.

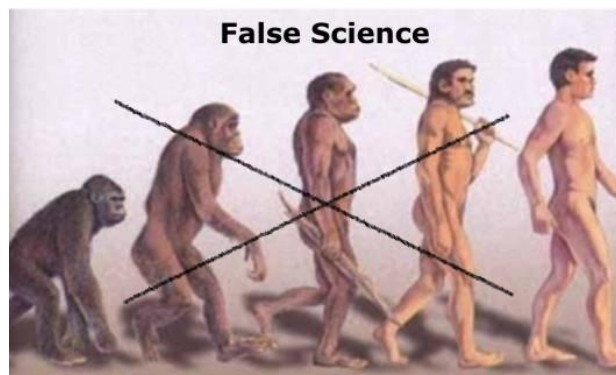
Verse 29

²⁹Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.

Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright... At least, this was one valid discovery that Solomon actually made. Moreover, his experience had nothing to do with it. All men can read it in:

Genesis 1:26

²⁶**And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:** and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.



Pastor Hank's Notes on: Ecclesiastes Or, The Preacher



Ecclesiastes 8

Chapter 8 Outline: Wisdom in obeying and honoring the king, verses 1-4, Reasons for wise living, verses 5-9, Why are the deeds of the wicked soon forgotten? Verses 1-13, Why do the bad have it good and the good have it bad? Verse 14, Live for the moment – and know there is more than what you can see, verses 15-17.

Ecclesiastes 8

Verse 1

1 Who is as the wise man? and who knoweth the interpretation of a thing? a man's wisdom maketh his face to shine, and the boldness of his face shall be changed.

Who is as the wise man?... Solomon searched for a wise man, who knew the **interpretation of a thing. Solomon knew that wisdom makes a man happier, even in the “under the sun” life (**maketh his face to shine, and the boldness of his face shall be changed**).**

Who is a Wise Man? Signs of a Wise Man:

1. A Wise Man listens and learns!

Proverbs 1:5

⁵ A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:

2. A Wise Man receives Commandments!

Proverbs 10:8

⁸The wise in heart will receive commandments: but a prating fool shall fall.

3. Wise People store what they've learned.

Proverbs 10:14

¹⁴ Wise men lay up knowledge: but the mouth of the foolish is near destruction.

4. Wise People are a discerning people.

Proverbs 16:21

²¹The wise in heart shall be called prudent: and the sweetness of the lips increaseth learning.

5. Wise People receive correction and criticism well.

Proverbs 9:8

⁸ Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee.

6. Wise People are teachers.

Proverbs 15:7

⁷ The lips of the wise disperse knowledge: but the heart of the foolish doeth not so.

7. Wise People flee from Danger, Evil and Sin!

Proverbs 14:16

¹⁶ A wise man feareth, and departeth from evil: but the fool rageth, and is confident.

8. Wise people hang out with Wise People!

Proverbs 13:20

²⁰ He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.

Someone once said - "Show me his company, and I'll tell you the man."

Another said - "Let me know the company he keeps, and I shall easily guess his moral character."

9. Wise People seek knowledge.

Proverbs 18:15

¹⁵ The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge.

10. Wise People are Soul Winners!

Proverbs 11:30

³⁰ The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.



and who knoweth the interpretation of a thing?... The **wise** man knows how to explain difficult things, to unfold mysterious things; in short, he understands how to go to the foundation of things. Can you explain The Gospel to someone?

a man's wisdom maketh his face to shine, and the boldness of his face shall be changed... The shining-changed face generally speaks of favor and **boldness**:

Numbers 6:25-26

²⁵ The LORD make his face **shine** upon thee, and be gracious unto thee:

²⁶ The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

Exodus 34:29-35

²⁹ And it came to pass, when Moses came down from mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony in Moses' hand, when he came down from the mount, that Moses wist not that the skin of his face **shone** while he talked with him.

³⁰ And when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face **shone**; and they were afraid to come nigh him.

Matthew 17:2

² And was transfigured before them: and his face did **shine** as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.

Acts 6:15

¹⁵ And all that sat in the council, looking stedfastly on him, saw his face as it had been **the face of an angel**.

Verse 2

² I counsel thee to keep the king's commandment, and that in regard of the oath of God.

I counsel thee to keep the king's commandment... New Testament:

1 Peter 2:17

¹⁷ Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. **Honour the king**.

Romans 13:1

1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

Matthew 22:20-21

²⁰ And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription?

²¹ They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.

to keep the king's commandment, and that in regard of the oath of God... Loyalty to God is linked with loyalty to human leaders and the laws of the land.

Upon enlisting in the United States Armed Forces, each person enlisting in an armed force (whether a Soldier, Sailor, Coast Guardsman, Airman, or Marine) takes an oath of enlistment required by federal statute in 10 U.S.C. § 502:

"I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the **President of the United States** and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God."

The Bible also notes that we are free to resist those in authority when they command us to do something which would violate the will of God.

Acts 5:29

²⁹ Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.



Verse 3

³ Be not hasty to go out of his sight: stand not in an evil thing; for he doeth whatsoever pleaseth him.

Be not hasty to go out of his sight... Wise behavior before kings (verse 2) is advised because each subject took the oath of God or oath of loyalty to the king.

stand not in an evil thing... Revolt is a serious matter to be rashly undertaken, for power to do as the king pleases is part of the definition of kingly power. **for he doeth whatsoever pleaseth him...** The king executes anyone he pleases to execute!

Be not hasty to go out of his sight... Literal-Do not desert the king in time of danger. **Be not hasty to go out** from the sight of the **True King of Kings**. Do not think to hide yourself from God, for there is no fleeing from his presence!

Jonah 1

¹ Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying,

² Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me.

³ But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. (And we know the rest of the story...)



Verse 4

⁴ Where the word of a king is, there is power: and who may say unto him, What doest thou?

Where the word of a king is, there is power... Kings in Solomon's day had a vast amount of power, for their word was absolute. When such a king happened to be wise and good, it was a great blessing to the people. The word of every true king was with power, the king being answerable to no man but himself, for his authority came from God. "For there is no power but of God" (Romans 13:1). Many kings have had to learn this truth the hard way, however, for they have found that God could remove them as quickly as He had ordained them when they abused that power.

and who may say unto him, What doest thou?... The king has the last say over his people. The word of the king is the law of the land. This is a reason why it is wise to obey a king. Their power!

Where the word of a king is, there is power... But there is one King who will never fall, King Jesus!

1 Timothy 6:15-16

¹⁵ Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only **Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;**

¹⁶ Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and **power** everlasting. Amen.

Matthew 28:18

¹⁸ And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All **power** is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Luke 4:32 ³² And they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with **power**.

Pastor Hank's Notes on: Ecclesiastes Or, The Preacher



Ecclesiastes 8

Chapter 8 Outline: Wisdom in obeying and honoring the king, verses 1-4, Reasons for wise living, verses 5-9, Why are the deeds of the wicked soon forgotten? Verses 10-13, Why do the bad have it good and the good have it bad? Verse 14, Live for the moment – and know there is more than what you can see, verses 15-17.

Ecclesiastes 8, Reasons for wise living, (Wisdom in obeying and honoring the king) verses 5-9: Verse 5

⁵ Whoso keepeth the commandment shall feel no evil thing: and a wise man's heart discerneth both time and judgment.

Whoso keepeth the commandment shall feel no evil thing... It is generally true that people who keep the laws of the land are not in trouble and generally don't have to fear the king or Government.

1 Peter 2:14 (New Testament Application)

¹⁴ Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, **and for the praise of them that do well.**

The Gov't is praising those that do well, because they keep **the commandment** of the king. The result is that they **shall feel no evil thing** from the Gov't.

and a wise man's heart discerneth both time and judgment... A wise man understands **both time and judgment**: the when and hows of life's situations... When you keep the commandments of the king, you will not be punished. The wise man sees beyond the immediate happening (**time**), and knows there is a God in heaven who will someday judge the whole earth, **including the king.**

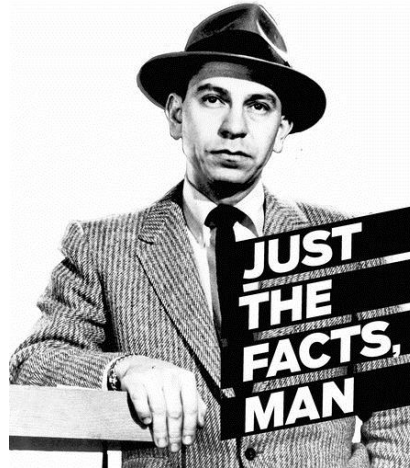
The **Five Ws, and One H** are questions whose answers are considered basic in information gathering or problem solving. They are often mentioned in journalism- news style, research, and police investigations. They constitute a formula for getting the complete story on a subject. According to the principle of the **Five Ws and One H**, a report can only be considered complete if it answers these questions starting with an interrogative word:

- **What** happened?
- **Who** is involved?
- **Where** did it take place?
- **When** did it take place?
- **Why** did that happen?
- **How** did it happen?

Each question should have a factual answer — facts necessary to include for a report to be considered complete. Importantly, none of these questions should be answered with a simple "yes" or "no".

Roman Senator Boethius (480–524 AD) made the seven circumstances fundamental to the arts of prosecution and defense: Quis, quid, cur, quomodo, ubi, quando, quibus auxiliis.

(Who, what, why, how, where, when, with, what)



A wise man's heart discerneth both time and judgment....

Verse 6

⁶ Because to every purpose there is time and judgment, therefore the misery of man is great upon him.

God sees the misery of His people, like He saw the misery of the children of Israel in Egypt. God will not allow the misery to go on forever. Even when there is oppression, there is a proper time for action, there is a proper way in which to respond and there will be a proper time for judgement.

Exodus 3:1-7 God sees:

¹ Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb.

² And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.

³ And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.

⁴ And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I.

⁵ And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.

⁶ Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.

⁷ **And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;**

God saw the misery of The Children of Israel and God see's the misery of His Sons and Daughters today! But don't worry, The Lord's Coming back, Amen!

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

¹⁶ For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

¹⁷ Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.



Revelation 21:3-4 God sees and delivers!

³ And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

⁴ And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

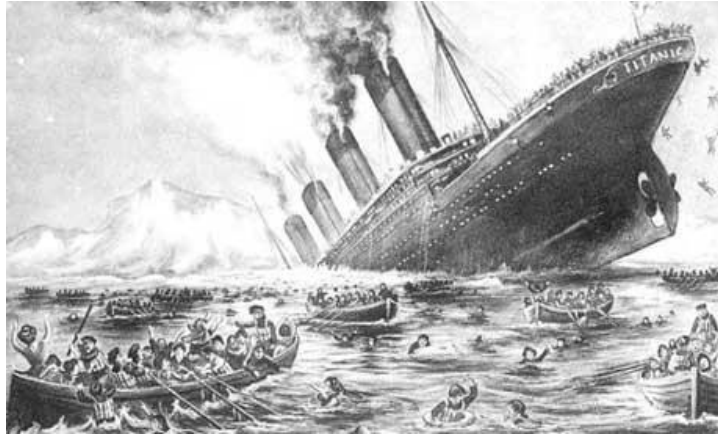


Verse 7

⁷ For he knoweth not that which shall be: for who can tell him when it shall be?

Men are in the dark in regard to future events. God only knows them.

Man always seems to have a plan, Man always seems to have a “Winner”, Man always thinks HE KNOWS THE FUTURE... **Hello:**



Not even God himself could sink this ship.”

— Employee of the White Star Line, at the launch of the Titanic, *May 31, 1911*



Ford’s biggest flop The Edsel

In 1958, Ford’s newest vehicle, launched on “E-Day,” flailed, flopped, and imploded. This car of the future was blah by anyone’s standards. By November 1959, when Ford finally mercy-killed the Edsel, it had lost an estimated \$250 million—nearly \$2 billion in today’s dollars. Edsel is now synonymous with a marketing business failure.

for who can tell him when it shall be?... Now, I’m not a Calvinist, but God has appointed a time for everything **but man knows neither the time nor the outcome (for who can tell him when it shall be?).** These uncertainties can increase ones **misery.**

Remember:

1 Thessalonians 5:2-3

²For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

³For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

For who can tell him when it shall be? Who knows? Answer: God knows!

****** This doesn't mean that we can't Plan or Prepare or Think about the Future, we just need to remember that God knows the **times**, the beginnings and the ends!

It's Biblical to Plan or Prepare or Think about the Future!

Proverbs 13:22

²² A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just.

Jesus said in Luke 14:28-32

²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?

²⁹ Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him,

³⁰ Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.

³¹ Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand?

³² Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace.

“By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail.” - **Benjamin Franklin**

The Ultimate Plan: Accepting Jesus as Lord and Saviour!

2 Corinthians 6:2 ... “behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation!”

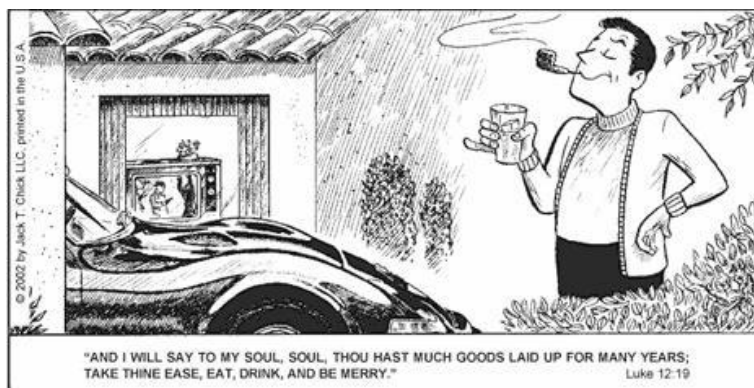
Verse 8

⁸ There is no man that hath power over the **spirit** to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of **death**: and there is no discharge in that **war**; neither shall wickedness **deliver** those that are given to it.

No man is absolute commander over:

1. His spirit. When God calls you home, you coming home!

2. His death. Not only is man incapable of avoiding death, man is also powerless to determine the day that he will die. Generally, for most people, the day of death is completely unexpected.





3. His War. Human beings are not only helpless in face of death, but also they stand helpless in War. Once the battle begins, we can't merely opt out or refuse to participate any longer. Like death, war is something that once it starts you are "locked in" until the war is over.

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after April 28, 1877 and on or before February 16, 1897)

SERIAL NUMBER U 2722	1. NAME (Print) Clement, Shanely Partington	ORDER NUMBER
2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) 311 Walnut St. Sedney Shelby Ohio		
3. MAILING ADDRESS Same		
4. TELEPHONE none	5. AGE IN YEARS 45	6. PLACE OF BIRTH Shelby Co. Ohio
7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WITH WHOM YOU LIVE Mrs. Pauline A. M. Partington same address		
8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS Menard Machine Tool Co.		
9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT (Print) 11. Oak St. Sedney Shelby Ohio		
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE D. S. S. FORM 1 (Revised 4-1-42) 16-28630-1		



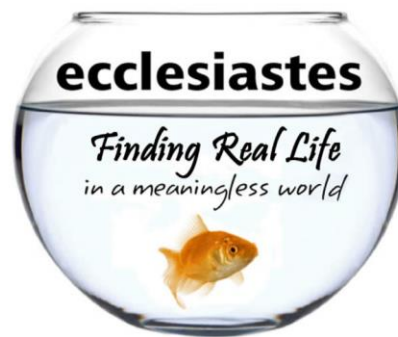
4. His Deliverance. Though the life of the wicked may be prolonged (Verse 7:15), yet wickedness itself has no power to deliver that life to Eternal Life. Wickedness can buy time for the sinner, but cannot deliver him from the death, temporal and eternal, which is its final penalty.

Verse 9

⁹ All this have I seen, and applied my heart unto every work that is done under the sun: there is a time wherein one man ruleth over another to his own hurt.

there is a time wherein one man ruleth over another to his own hurt... Solomon isn't presenting a theory, rather he is speaking from personal experience and observation. The Preacher knew that part of man's misery on this earth was to be ruled by others oppressively. Nobody wins when one man is oppressing or **hurting** another. The oppressed suffer and the oppressor stores up for themselves divine judgment.

Pastor Hank's Notes on: Ecclesiastes Or, The Preacher



Ecclesiastes 8

Chapter 8 Outline: Wisdom in obeying and honoring the king, verses 1-4, Reasons for wise living, verses 5-9, Why are the deeds of the wicked soon forgotten? Verses 10-13, Why do the bad have it good and the good have it bad? Verse 14, Live for the moment – and know there is more than what you can see, verses 15-17.

Ecclesiastes 8, Why are the deeds of the wicked soon forgotten? verses 10-13:

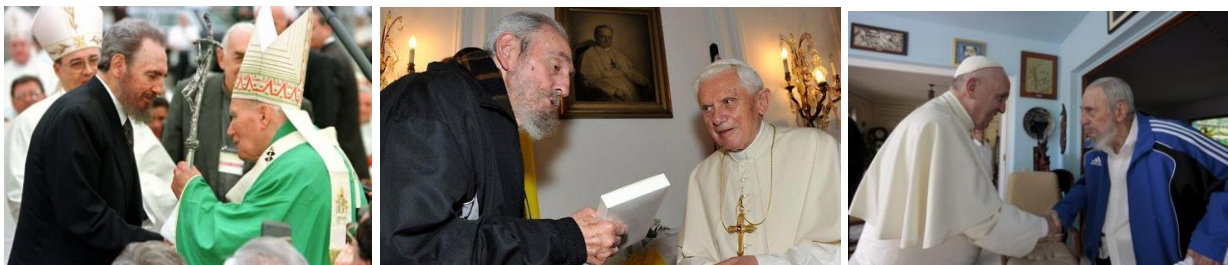
Verse 10

¹⁰ And so I saw the wicked buried, who had come and gone from the place of the holy, and they were forgotten in the city where they had so done: this is also vanity.

Solomon saw that the **wicked** die, and the evil that was done is soon forgotten.

the wicked... This would include **wicked** people who oppress others, i.e. tyrants, corrupt governmental officials, those who are ruthless in business, in the courts, despots and dictators.

who had come and gone from the place of the holy... These **wicked** people who pretended to be righteous, who frequented the temple and went **from the place of the holy**.



Should we be shocked that powerful people can do terrible things, and yet still have high approval ratings with the masses? When was the last time you saw anyone buried in disgrace? How many corrupt politicians, ruthless tycoons, and immoral Hollywood actors or actresses aren't buried with full honors?

Verse 11

¹¹ Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.

Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily... The merciful delay of God's judgment leads to further disobedience. This delay, in no way diminishes the certainty of final judgment.

Much judgment does not take place on the earth. Some, who thought they "got away with it", will find judgment from God in the end to be harsh.

Revelation 20:12

¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil... Those living sinful lives, who are not punished immediately, cause others to go the way of sin, too. They think it is easy to cover up their sins and "get away with it" too. You may get away with your sin on this earth and think no one knows, but be sure, God knows.

Verses 12 & 13

¹² 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:

¹³ 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.

Yes, sinners prolong their days in prosperity; but it is still true that it **shall be well** with the righteous and it shall not be well with the wicked.

In this passage, it is clear enough that Solomon knows the general rule that those who fear God will fare well and live long, and that those who do not fear God will not, but he also knows cases that do not conform to the general rule; and for that reason he calls it all vanity.

What does it mean to Fear God? Sadly, most people don't Fear God anymore...

Romans 3:18

¹⁸ There is no fear of God before their eyes.

Americans do not fear God anymore. Our culture is saturated with demonic influences and has deteriorated into a decadent society of pleasure-seeking, ungrateful, spoiled-brats. America has largely deteriorated into a boozing culture of dirty-minded television addicts, selfish pleasure-seekers, gluttons, sports-fanatics, gossipers and critics, self-righteous hypocrites, liars, marriage quitters, idolatrous celebrity worshippers, immoral ingrates, arrogant fools, who have NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES.

Romans 1:21-32

²¹ Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

²² Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

²³ And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

²⁴ Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

²⁵ Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

²⁶ For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

²⁷ And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

²⁹ Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

³⁰ Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

³¹ Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

³² Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.



How can people act this way? THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES...

For the Believer, the fear of God is something much different. The Believer's fear is reverence of God.

Hebrews 12:28-29

²⁸ Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

²⁹ For our God is a consuming fire.

This reverence and awe is exactly what the fear of God means for Christians. This is the motivating factor for us to surrender to the Creator of the Universe.

Believers are not to be scared of God. We have no reason to be scared of Him. We have His promise that nothing can separate us from His love (Romans 8:38-39). We have His promise that He will never leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). Fearing God means having such a reverence for Him that it has a great impact on the way we live our lives. The fear of God is respecting Him, obeying Him, submitting to His discipline, and worshipping Him in awe.

For the unbeliever, the fear of God is the fear of the judgment of God and eternal death, which is eternal separation from God:

Luke 12:5

⁵ But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.

Hebrews 10:31

³¹ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Wisdom in Fear:

Wisdom - the fear of God.

Proverbs 1:7

⁷ The **fear of the LORD** is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Abraham, a friend of God, and one who feared The Lord!

Genesis 22:10-12

¹⁰ And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.

¹¹ And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I.

¹² And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.

Job is a man who feared God.

Job 1:8-9

⁸ And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, **one that feareth God**, and escheweth evil?

⁹ Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job **fear God** for nought?

Moses advised to select God fearing men to govern.

Exodus 18:20-21

²⁰ And thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt shew them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do.

²¹ Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people **able men, such as fear God**, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens:

The Thief on The Cross Feared God! He got Saved!**Luke 23:40-43**

⁴⁰ But the other answering rebuked him, saying, **Dost not thou fear God**, seeing thou art in the same condemnation?

⁴¹ And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss.

⁴² And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.

⁴³ And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.

The early Church lived in the fear of the Lord.**Acts 9:31**

³¹ Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and **walking in the fear of the Lord**, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.

Do You Fear God?**Verse 14, Why do the bad have it good and the good have it bad?**

¹⁴ 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.

Here again we see the frustration of life... In this life there is no certainty that morality will pay any earthly dividends. There are righteous people who suffered (Lazarus, Job, John the Baptist, the prophets, Jesus, etc...). And there are evil men who abundantly prosper.

God allows this life to be unpredictable:

1. Because man has a freewill, and we often suffer because of the wrong choices exercised by others.
2. So that people don't merely serve God for the expectation of Earthly benefits from God.

Verses 15-17, Live for the moment – and know there is more than what you can see.

¹⁵ Then I commended mirth, because a man hath no better thing under the sun, than to eat, and to drink, and to be merry: for that shall abide with him of his labour the days of his life, which God giveth him under the sun.

To the Believer: Enjoy life in the face of the injustice which surrounded him...

To the Unbeliever: There is no eternal life for the Unbeliever, then for the Unbeliever the only “enjoyment” they’ll have is to enjoy life to the “fullest” **under the sun**. Solomon is saying, be thankful for the blessings of this life and enjoy laughter, food, and drink-because, that’s all they have until Death and Eternal Hell. This is the reward for **his labour the days of his life, which God giveth him under the sun**.

Point To Note: Eat, Drink and be Merry.

Far from being a bleak and miserable existence, the life of the **Believer** is to be optimistic and cheerful. In view of our eternal reward, we can make the best of our temporary hardships, and then God advises us to make the most of the good times, to relish and really enjoy the physical blessings which come our way. We should enjoy and appreciate good food, festive occasions, times of celebration and rejoicing. These are not moments to be squandered. In other words, God is saying, **"Life is too short to spend all your time at the office". Enjoy Life!**



Verse 16

¹⁶ When I applied mine heart to know wisdom, and to see the business that is done upon the earth: (for also there is that neither day nor night seeth sleep with his eyes:)

Solomon’s task was twofold:

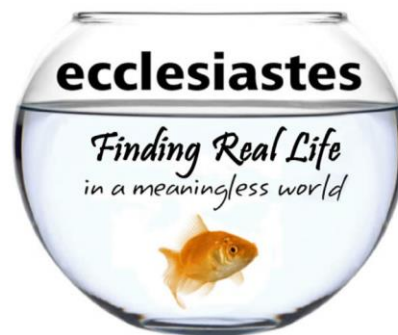
1. To know what is and what isn’t wisdom. **(to know wisdom...)**
2. And to use such wisdom to understand the affairs of this life. **(and to see the business that is done upon the earth...)**

Verse 17

¹⁷ Then I beheld all the work of God, that a man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun: because though a man labour to seek it out, yet he shall not find it; yea farther; though a wise man think to know it, yet shall he not be able to find it.

though a wise man think to know it, ... Solomon’s conclusion here is that we must be content not to know everything. Neither labour, seeking, skill nor experience (wisdom) will unravel the mystery. Wise men may make excessive claims, but they too will be baffled. **(yet shall he not be able to find it...)**

Pastor Hank's Notes on: Ecclesiastes Or, The Preacher



Ecclesiastes 9

Chapter 9 Outline: The despair of death: the same thing happens to everyone, verses 1-6, Life and death, joy is only found in the moment, verses 7-10, Time and chance under the sun, verses 11& 12, Wisdom unrecognized and unappreciated, verses 13-15, Wisdom thwarted, verses 16-18.

Ecclesiastes 9, The despair of death: the same thing happens to everyone, verses 1-6:

Verse 1

1 For all this I considered in my heart even to declare all this, that the righteous, and the wise, and their works, are in the hand of God: no man knoweth either love or hatred by all that is before them.

The grand truth stated here is that God is in control. Everything that occurs in the final analysis, happens under the permissive will of God.

that the righteous, and the wise, and their works, are in the hand of God: no man knoweth either love or hatred by all that is before them... Solomon's point is that while man has freewill, as previous noted in chapters 7-8, righteous and wise men in this life are not always rewarded according to their deeds. Even the righteous or wise men doesn't know if good or harm awaits him in this life.



By: The Associated Press, March 29, 2017 at 11:24 PM

UVALDE, Texas -- A small shuttle bus carrying Texas church members home from a retreat collided head-on with a pickup truck, killing 13 people and injuring two others Wednesday on a two-lane highway in southwestern Texas, officials said.

All of the victims who died were senior adults who attended First Baptist Church of New Braunfels, Texas, including the driver. A total of 14 senior adults were on the bus and the driver was the only person in the pickup when the vehicles collided about 12:30 p.m. on U.S. 83 outside Garner State Park in northern Uvalde County, according to Texas Department of Public Safety Sgt. Conrad Hein and a church statement. The area is about 75 miles west of San Antonio.



that the righteous, and the wise, and their works, are in the hand of God... This means that the righteous are under **His** special protection as righteous, and under His direction as people.

Deuteronomy 33:3

³ **Yea, he loved the people; all his saints are in thy hand:** and they sat down at thy feet; every one shall receive of thy words.



Verse 2

² All things come alike to all: there is one event to the righteous, and to the wicked; to the good and to the clean, and to the unclean; to him that sacrificeth, and to him that sacrificeth not: as is the good, so is the sinner; and he that sweareth, as he that feareth an oath.

All things come alike to all... This is very generally true; **but** God often makes a difference and his faithful followers witness many interventions of Divine Providence in their behalf. But there are general blessings, and general natural evils, that equally affect the just and the unjust.

Matthew 5:45

⁴⁵ That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

there is one event to the... The one fate that comes to all, regardless of their conduct or character is **death**.

so is the sinner; and he that sweareth, as he that feareth an oath... He that sweareth - rashly and falsely. Frivolous using of God's holy name is a characteristic mark of the godlessness.



Verse 3

³This is an evil among all things that are done under the sun, that there is one event unto all: yea, also the heart of the sons of men is full of evil, and madness is in their heart while they live, and after that they go to the dead.

yea, also the heart of the sons of men is full of evil... "Sons of men" is speaking of mankind in his sinful condition before he is saved. When a person is saved, he becomes a son of God.

is full of evil... The Son of Men are naturally full of evil, of all unrighteousness and wickedness, what comes out of them is shown...

Genesis 6:5, Early in The Beginning...

⁵And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Matthew 15:19, Jesus said...

¹⁹For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:

Now Present Day: Ten ISIS Atrocities... The heart of the sons of men is full of evil!

1) Siege of Mount Sinjar



Between August 3rd and 14th of 2014, Islamic State forces cut off and surrounded thousands of Yazidi civilians on Mount Sinjar in northern Iraq. At least 500 men were slaughtered execution style, with an unknown number of women being captured and sold into slavery. At least 70 children were reported to have died of thirst, while at least 50 of the elderly perished.

2) Hostage Beheadings.

While these could be categorized as separate incidents, they are all similar in their horrific nature. Hostages in orange jumpsuits are paraded helplessly in front of a camera, forced to read a propaganda script, and then subsequently beheaded slowly. Many of the victims were humanitarian aid workers. The victims thus far: James Foley and Steven Sotloff, American journalists. David Haines and Alan Henning, British humanitarian workers. Herve Gourdel, a French mountaineering guide in Algeria. Peter Kassig, a former Army Ranger and humanitarian worker. Haruna Yukawa and Kenji Goto Jogo, Japanese contractors. Hundreds of Syrian army and Kurdish Peshmerga soldiers have also been beheaded.

3) Crucifying Children.



On February 4th, 2015 a newly released UN report revealed some of the most shocking Islamic State atrocities yet. Children are being killed by crucifixion, as well as being buried alive and sold into sex slavery. Included in this barbaric story is this report of a 17 year old boy crucified for 3 days by ISIS for allegedly taking photographs of ISIS headquarters.

4) 21 Coptic Christians lined up and beheaded in Libya.



On February 15, 2015, ISIS released a video showing the beheading of 21 captured Egyptian men. All Coptic Christians, the video states "to the people of the cross". The massacre took place on a Libyan beach.

5) 45 Iraqis burned to death in al-Baghdadi.

After capturing the key strategic town just 5 miles from Al Asad airbase, where 320 US Marines are stationed alongside Iraqi forces, ISIS rounded up 45 civilians in the town, some thought to be Iraq security forces and their families, and burned them all alive.

6) Burning of Jordanian pilot Muath Al-Kasaesbeh.



On February 10th, 2015, ISIS released a horrific video showing the captured Jordanian pilot standing in a cage, doused with gasoline, and eventually set on fire before being crushed under a load of giant rocks.

7) Execution of 600 Iraqi captives.



On June 10th, 2014, according to reports, ISIS took some 600 male prisoners out into the desert near Mosul, Iraq and initiated a mass execution. Approximately 30 men survived, by rolling into the mass grave along with the other dead bodies.

8) Beheading of 4 Iraqi children for refusing to convert to Islam.

In December of 2014, it was reported that 4 Iraqi children under the age of 15 were beheaded after refusing to convert from Christianity to Islam.

9) Medieval torture of breastfeeding woman.

After a Syrian woman was found breastfeeding in public, which is strictly against Sharia law, a group of all female religious police called the al Khansa brigade, tortured the woman with a bear trap like device clamped to her breasts.

10) 3,500 Yazidi women sold into sex slavery.



In December of 2014, reports began to come out of northern Iraq that some 3,500 captured Yazidi women had been sold as sex slaves, tortured and repeatedly raped. ISIS later published an official document outlining the rules of proper sex slave etiquette claiming "Question: Is it allowed to have intercourse with a female slave who has not reached puberty? Answer: You may have intercourse with a female slave who hasn't reached puberty if she is fit for intercourse."

and madness is in their heart while they live... Every sin is **madness**; for who but a madman would stretch out his hand against God, and strengthen himself against the Almighty? Who but a madman would rush into maddening evil sin. Wicked men are mad upon their lusts, and mad against the saints, and all that is good; this insanity is in their hearts, and shows itself in their lives, and continues with them as long as they live, until...

and after that they go to the dead... After all the madness of their lives, they die and go to the dead.

Proverbs 9:18

¹⁸ But he knoweth not that the dead are there; and that her guests **are in the depths of hell.**

Verse 4

⁴ For to him that is joined to all the living there is hope: for a living dog is better than a dead lion.

to all the living there is hope... Existence is better than non-existence. To live is to be conscious. To think, to know, to reason, to act is advancement. To possess powers of estimating even misery is a matter for thankfulness.

for a living dog is better than a dead lion... The dogs in Israel weren't pets, rather they were wild, roamed in packs, lived off the garbage and the bodies of dead animals and humans, and were viewed as miserable creatures. On the other hand, the lion is a symbol of majestic power and royalty. In the animal kingdom, the contrast here is between the king of beasts and the bottom of the barrel. The meaning is, the most lowly person who still possess life is better off than the most exalted man who had already gone to the grave (and wasn't prepared to meet God). Better poor, alive and with time to change than rich, dead and lost. The poorest living peasant-Dog is above Alexander the Great-Lion.

Verse 5

⁵ For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten.

This is not a pessimistic statement about life after death; rather it confirms that life on earth is the only arena of opportunity for accomplishment and reward.

For the living know that they shall die... So they can make preparations so they die in a right relationship with God.

"Our God is the God from whom cometh salvation. God is the Lord by whom we escape death." - Martin Luther's last words...

but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward... Their bodily senses and worldly affairs are concerned, they know no door of repentance open to them, such as is to all on earth.

Edgar Allen Poe was said to have lived at best an erratic life of lies and drunkenness. He died in 1849 at the age of 40 having been found in a street near death—"Lord help my poor soul!"

for the memory of them is forgotten...Not by God, but by their fellow man.

Luke 16:19-31

¹⁹ There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:

²⁰ And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,

²¹ And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

²² And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;

²³ And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

²⁴ And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

²⁵ But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

²⁶ And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

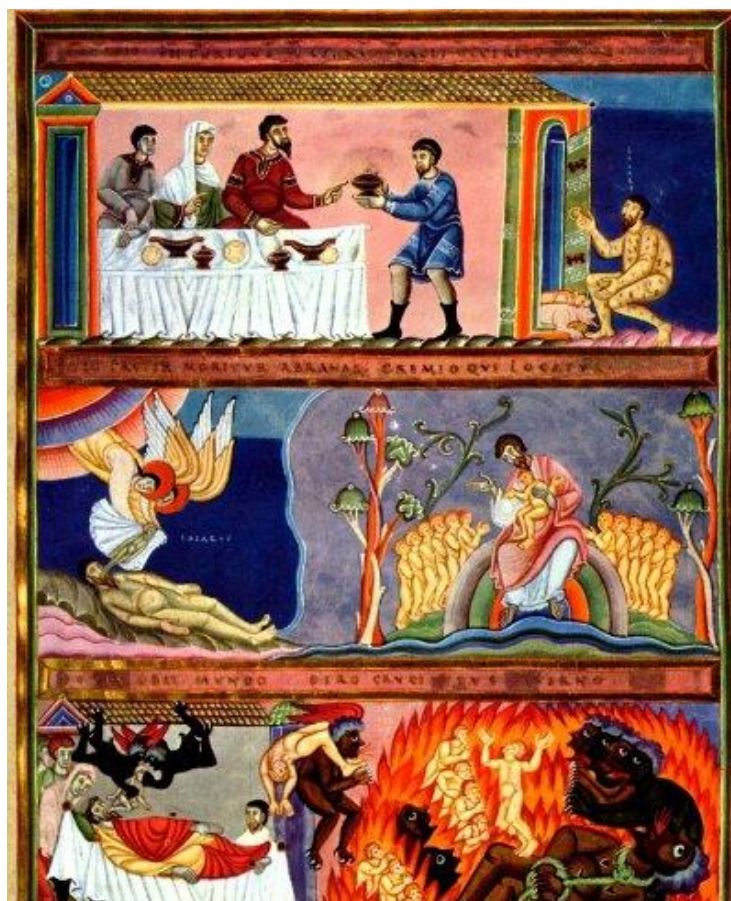
²⁷ Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:

²⁸ For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

²⁹ Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.

³⁰ And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.

³¹ And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.



Verse 6

⁶ Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun.

Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished... The dead no longer share in the knowledge, love, hatred, or events upon the earth. Their ability to manifest love, hatred or zeal towards others in this life is completely gone.

One of the good things about death, is that death does check the sinner. Death does put an end to the suffering that some people seem determine to inflict upon others.

neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun...Death completely cuts you off from this life. This verse agrees with the truths found in Luke. It also seriously contradicts the idea of ghosts, both good and bad. Or, the ability for the dead to contact us or for us to contact them.

Some Concluding Thoughts:



Will Thomas Laqueur's book (University of California, Berkeley)

"The Work of the Dead: How Caring for Mortal Remains Has Shaped Humanity" have this in it? Posing the dead, a final Goodbye in the Victorian era.

Laqueur's Book, "The Work of the Dead: How Caring for Mortal Remains has Shaped Humanity," will speak to compelling questions: Why do we as a species care for the bodies of our dead? What work do the dead do for the living? How do specific ways of disposing of the dead and specific memorial practices create communities, nations, and culture more generally?

Answer: Man thinks he can control death, but in truth it's Vanity... God has the final say in death:

Hebrews 9:27

²⁷ And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

God also provided Victory over Solomon's and Man's dim view of Death: His Son, Jesus!

1 Corinthians 15:55-57

⁵⁵ O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastor Hank's Notes on: Ecclesiastes Or, The Preacher



Ecclesiastes 9

Chapter 9 Outline: The despair of death: the same thing happens to everyone, verses 1-6, Life and death, joy is only found in the moment, verses 7-10, Time and chance under the sun, verses 11& 12, Wisdom unrecognized and unappreciated, verses 13-15, Wisdom thwarted, verses 16-18.

Ecclesiastes 9, Life and death, joy is only found in the moment, verses 7-10:

Verse 7

⁷ Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart; for God now accepteth thy works.

Man's labors on the earth give him the right to enjoy the food and drink he has earned. Food and wine, here, are spoken of as his daily foodstuff. Wine was drunk with meals, and this is not speaking of getting **drunk**.

Ephesians 5:18

¹⁸ And be not **drunk** with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

1 Corinthians 6:10

¹⁰ Nor thieves, nor covetous, **nor drunkards**, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

Go thy way... Far from being depressed or discouraged by the previous chapters on death, Solomon exhorts the living to make the most of the wholesome pleasures of this life, **“eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart”**.

for God now accepteth thy works... God approves of the enjoyment of life. His will is that men enjoy life.

with a merry heart... Merry means:

1. full of cheerfulness or gaiety; joyous in disposition or spirit: *a merry man*.
2. laughingly happy; mirthful; festively joyous; hilarious: *a merry time at the party*.

The Bible uses the term “merry” in two different ways.

(1) Ungodly merriment:

1 Samuel 25:36

³⁶ And Abigail came to Nabal; and, behold, he held a feast in his house, like the feast of a king; and Nabal's heart was merry within him, for he was very drunken: wherefore she told him nothing, less or more, until the morning light.

Ecclesiastes 10:19

¹⁹ A feast is made for laughter, and wine maketh merry: but money answereth all things.

(2) Merriment of life in general:

Proverbs 17:22

²² A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.

Here the Bible declares that medicines are good. Nowhere in the Word of God does it teach that a Christian should avoid legal medications that are taken for medicinal purposes. A merry heart does good like a medicine. It is a good prevention for illness. Medicines sometimes treat only the symptoms while a merry heart may prevent the illness from ever occurring. Aspirin may relieve a headache, but a merry heart, which reduces stress, may prevent it from ever occurring.

God made man's sense of humor and the Bible certainly does not forbid laughter in general. What the Bible does forbid is worldly merriment—merriment connected with drunkenness and immorality and ungodliness. This is the meaning of “jesting” in Eph. 5:4.

Ephesians 5:4

⁴ Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.

Verse 8

⁸ Let thy garments be always white; and let thy head lack no ointment.

The garments being always white speaks of being clothed in righteousness {white}. White speaks of purity, and righteousness.

The Jews wore white garments on festal occasions, as emblems of joy and innocence. Be always pure, and always happy

Psalms 23:5

⁵ Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Verse 9

⁹ Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun.

Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life... Here we have a glimpse of the repentant and restored Solomon honoring God for His marvelous gifts and praising him for the blessings given to the sons of men (**Marriage**), even while he is still relating the stubborn and rebellious things that he had once believed. Here is a favorable mention of marriage and the loving of one wife, which is surprising enough from Solomon who had a 1000 wives and complained about them earlier.

Some Thoughts on Marriage:

The act of uniting a man and woman for life; wedlock; the legal union of a man and woman for life. Marriage is a contract both civil and religious, by which the parties engage to live together in mutual affection and fidelity, till death shall separate them. Marriage was instituted by God himself for the purpose of preventing the promiscuous intercourse of the sexes, for promoting domestic felicity, and for securing the maintenance and education of children. (Webster's 1828)

Marriage was the first institution ordained by God after the creation of man (Genesis 2:18-25), and it is the bedrock of the human society. Anything which corrupts marriage and the home is a direct threat to society as a whole. **This is one reason why sexual immorality and homosexuality are great crimes which were punishable by death under the Mosaic law (Leviticus 20).**

Genesis 2:18-25

¹⁸ And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

¹⁹ And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.

²⁰ And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.

²¹ And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

²² And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

²³ And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

²⁴ Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

²⁵ And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

From Genesis we see that marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman before God for the purpose of creating a new family unit (Genesis 2:22-24). The marriage union is holy and the sexual relationship within this union is holy (Hebrews 13:4). One of the proper and God-ordained purposes of marriage is the satisfaction of the sexual drive (1 Cor. 7:2-5).

Hebrews 13:4

⁴ Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

1 Corinthians 7:2-5

² Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.

³ Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband.

⁴ The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife.

⁵ Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.

Incontinency=Lacking sexual restraint; unchaste.

The sexual relationship in married couples is a lawful and necessary function of Christian marriage.

Malachi explains that marriage is more than the sexual union; it is a covenant before God and man, and it is this covenant that God blesses by making the two one (Malachi 2:14-15).

Malachi 2:14-15

¹⁴ Yet ye say, Wherefore? **Because the Lord hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth**, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant.

¹⁵ **And did not he make one?** Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth.

Jesus Teaching on Marriage:

Matthew 19:4-6

⁴ And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning **made them male and female**,

⁵ And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?

⁶ Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. **What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.**

TWELVE BIBLICAL RULES FOR A HAPPY MARRIAGE

1. Remember that criticism and nagging destroy love.

Matthew 7:3

³ And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

Stop criticizing, nagging, and faultfinding. Your husband or wife may lack much, but nagging won't help. Don't expect perfection, or bitterness will result. Overlook faults, and look for the good things. Don't try to reform, control, or compel your partner--you will destroy love. Only God can change people. A sense of humor, a cheerful heart, kindness, patience, and affection will banish two-thirds of your marriage problems. Try to make your spouse happy rather than good, and the good will take care of itself. The secret of a successful marriage lies not in having the right partner, but rather in being the right partner.

2. Pray Together. (James 1:5)

3. Never go to sleep with an argument unsettled. And don't sin by letting anger gain control over you. Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry. (Ephesians 4:26)

4. At least once a day, try to say something complimentary to your spouse. Gentle words bring life and health; a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit. (Proverbs 15:4)

5. Never meet without an affectionate welcome. Kiss me again and again, your love is sweeter than wine.

Song of Solomon 1:2

² Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth: for thy love is better than wine.

6. “For richer or poorer” – rejoice in every moment that God has given you together. A bowl of soup with someone you love is better than steak with someone you hate. (Proverbs 15:17)

7. If you have a choice between making yourself or your mate look good, choose your mate. Do not withhold good from those who deserve it when it’s in your power to help them. (Proverbs 3:27)

8. If they’re breathing, your mate will eventually offend you. **Learn to forgive.** (Luke 17:3, 4)

9. Be clean, modest, orderly, and dutiful. (1 Corinthians 14:40)

Laziness, disorder, dirt, and slovenliness are the devil's weapons to destroy your respect and affection for one another, and thus ruin your marriage. Neat, modest attire and clean, well-groomed bodies are essential for both husband and wife. The meals should be wholesome, attractive, and served on time. The home should be clean and orderly, because this brings peace, calmness, and satisfaction to all. A lazy, shiftless husband who does not provide for his household is a curse to his family and an insult to God.

10. Remember that God joined you together in marriage. (Matthew 19:6)

11. Determine to speak softly and kindly towards each other. Never yell at each other unless the house is on fire!

Proverbs 15:1

¹ A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.

12. Keep Christ in the center of your home.

Psalms 127:1

¹ Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

Marriage Is:

1. Divinely Instituted

Genesis 2:24

²⁴ Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

2. Designed for the Happiness of Man.

Genesis 2:18

¹⁸ And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

3. Increases the Human Population.

Genesis 1:28

²⁸ And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

4. Raising up Godly Seed.

Malachi 2:15

¹⁵ And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth.

5. Marriage is Honourable.

Hebrews 13:4

⁴ Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

6. Marriage is to be Celebrated.

John 3:29

²⁹ He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled.

7. Marriage results in Blessings from God.

Proverbs 18:22

²² Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord.

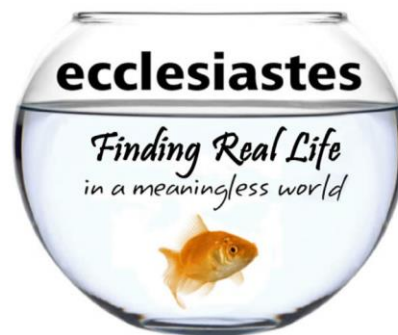
Verse 10

¹⁰ Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.

I truly believe to have a happy life, mankind must **work**. It is wonderful to be loved and wanted, but it is much more wonderful to be needed. There is a feeling of accomplishment that comes from a job well done.

We are the happiest, when we are the busiest. Then we do not have time to worry and fret. When we are in the **grave**, all activity stops.

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Ecclesiastes 9, Time and chance under the sun, verses 11& 12:

Verse 11

¹¹ 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.

I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong... Solomon observed that the swiftest person does not always win the race. The idea here is not that the swift loses the race to the slower runner because he is diverted from his goal by some lesser attraction or activity. Neither does it mean that the fast runner is over confident in his ability, or does not try hard enough-like the Tortoise and the Hare. The incident that causes him to lose the race is not of his own doing.

The idea is that man can't prepare for everything.

FEBRUARY 26, 2017 USA.com: Kyle Larson led the final lap of the Daytona 500 but ran out of gas half a lap away from the finish line. Kyle Larson's No. 42 Chevrolet just had to maintain his position for the win, but ran out of fuel...



In the same vein, the best-prepared army doesn't always win (David versus Goliath), and wise men aren't always rich. In fact, look what teachers, scientists, etc....make compared to professional athletes and movie stars. In addition, skillful men, men of great ability are often neither rich nor famous.

but time and chance happeneth to them all... Time and chance are paired, no doubt because they both have a way of taking matters suddenly out of our hands. In verses 11-12 we see five statements of unexpected results are followed by an explanation. Man's ability cannot guarantee the results because of the equalizing effects of time and chance.

From his **under the sun** perspective, it seemed that man was more subject to the whims of time and chance than of a loving, all-powerful God. Different outcomes certainly happen. But it would be completely out of character for the same God who does not forget so much as a sparrow, and who assures us that "ye are of more value than many sparrows" (Luke 12:6-7), **to allow anything to happen without a reason.** Life's outcomes happen as a result of humanity's choices; as a result of sin and forsaking God. But none of them happen "accidentally" or apart from God's will. Sometimes God's trying to show or teach us something. Think about the implications of something happening without any reason. It means one of two things: either God wasn't paying attention or didn't care. That's like calling the Almighty either incompetent or apathetic. **Remember:**

Romans 8:28

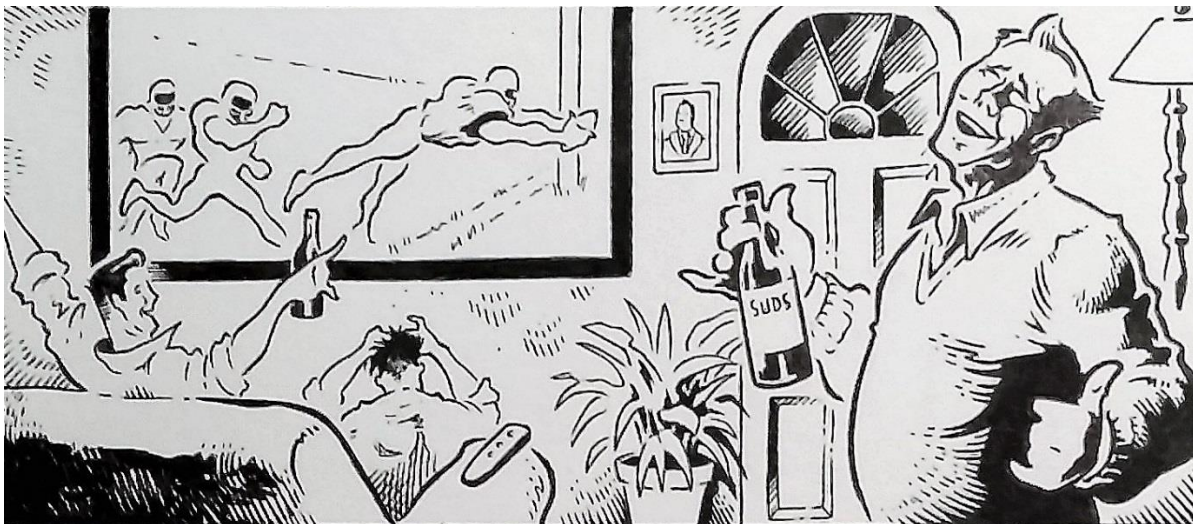
²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

God works all things together for good—both His good and our good. As God is glorified, His people benefit. The promise that God works all things together for good does not mean that all things, taken by themselves, are good. Some things and events are decidedly bad. But God is able to work them together for good. He sees the big picture; He has a master plan.

Verse 12

¹² 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.

For man also knoweth not his time... Neither the hour of his death, some misfortune (time and chance) nor both. Man is never sure of what will really happen tomorrow.



"AND I WILL SAY TO MY SOUL, SOUL, THOU HAST MUCH GOODS LAID UP FOR MANY YEARS; TAKE THINE EASE, EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY." ~ LK. 12:19



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... Man acts so neglectfully, notwithstanding all his wisdom, and all his warnings, that he is often taken, as a **fish** is, by the baited hook; and the **bird** by the baited snare. And thus, an evil time, like the snare, trap, hook, falleth suddenly upon them; and they are taken in a moment, and have no means of escaping.



Help Me...

The second coming of Jesus Christ is “as a snare” to the lost...

Luke 21:35

³⁵ For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.

Wisdom unrecognized and unappreciated, verses 13-15:

Verses 13-15

¹³ This wisdom have I seen also under the sun, and it seemed great unto me:

¹⁴ There was a little city, and few men within it; and there came a great king against it, and besieged it, and built great bulwarks against it:

¹⁵ Now there was found in it a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city; yet no man remembered that same poor man.

Solomon could be speaking of any small town. In that town, was found a wise man that was poor. The people would not listen to him, because he was poor. Even though he saved their city, they soon forgot that he had saved them. Solomon protested that the only lasting meaning this man might have – to be remembered – was taken away. The almost unbelievable fleetingness of fame added to the sense of meaninglessness of life.

Men quickly forget, but God never does. He knows those who are His (2 Timothy 2:19). He has a book of remembrance before Him for those that fear the Lord (Malachi 3:16), and their names are written in heaven (Luke 10:20), Amen!

Wisdom thwarted, verses 16-18:

Verse 16

¹⁶ Then said I, Wisdom is better than strength: nevertheless the poor man's wisdom is despised, and his words are not heard.

Wisdom is better than strength... The Preacher knew that even though wisdom is not appreciated, it was still better than strength.

When Alexander the Great was about to destroy the city Lampsacus, his old master Anaximenes came out to meet him. Alexander, suspecting his design, that he would intercede for the city, being determined to destroy it, swore that he would not grant him anything he should ask. Then said Anaximenes, "I desire that you will destroy this city." Alexander respected his oath, and the city was spared. **Wisdom is better than strength!**

nevertheless the poor man's wisdom is despised, and his words are not heard... In the above case, wisdom had everything against it, small defenses, resources, a small army and means. Strength, brute force, seemingly had everything on its side, a great king with a powerful army. Yes, human wisdom has a greater value than force or strength, but in the long run, it has a dark side. In the long run, often human wisdom only reaps ingratitude.

Verse 17

¹⁷ The words of wise men are heard in quiet more than the cry of him that ruleth among fools.

Loud-Quite... I can't help but think about how dictators often shout and are able to stir up mobs and the shouting of many modern day protesters. Being loud doesn't mean that you have the truth or really anything to say.

Verse 18

¹⁸ Wisdom is better than weapons of war: but one sinner destroyeth much good.

Wisdom is better than weapons of war... All the weapons of war might not bring peace, but wisdom can.

And the question is: Who wants Peace in their lives?

Many people experience War in their lives because of: Financial Pressures, Time Pressures, Isolation and Loneliness, Family Tensions, Bereavement, Reflecting on another year gone by.

Some of us here today are going through a lot of Stress...

And we need some Peace,

Peace starts with The Prince of Peace: The Lord Jesus Christ!

Isaiah 9:6

⁶ For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, **The Prince of Peace.**

Jesus Himself said in: John 14:27

²⁷ **Peace** I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

And when you have Peace with Jesus you have Peace with God!

Romans 5:1

1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have **peace** with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

And when you have Peace with Jesus and The Father, you should have Peace and good will toward men.

1 Peter 5:14

¹⁴ Greet ye one another with a kiss of charity. **Peace** be with you all that are in Christ Jesus. Amen.

but one sinner destroyeth much good... Solomon sensed that it was much easier to destroy than to build. Every government needs to take seriously the above truth, because so many governments rely upon their military might, instead of also placing emphasis upon **wisdom and morality.**



"I use emotion for the many and reserve reason for the few." - Adolf Hitler

Pastor Hank's Notes on: Ecclesiastes Or, The Preacher



Ecclesiastes 10

Chapter 10 Outline: (Folly and Wisdom, verses 1-20) Foolishness disgraces a wise man's honor, verse 1, Foolishness can't be hidden, verses 2-3, Foolishness in high places, verses 4-7, Foolishness in action, verses 8-10, The babbling talk of the foolish, verses 11-14, The fool at work, verse 15, How foolishness corrupts a nation, verses 16-20.

Ecclesiastes 10, Foolishness disgraces a wise man's honor, verse 1:

1 Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour: so doth a little **folly** him that is in reputation for wisdom and honour.

Folly, in this verse, means silliness, or foolishness. We know that anything dead, has a bad odor. For the flies to be dead where perfume was is worse. When a person expected the sweet odor of perfume, they smelled dead flies.

Just as one would throw out an entire bottle of perfume because of a dead fly in it, so people often reject a prominent man because of one mistake or character flaw. It takes far less to ruin something than to create it....it is easier to make a stink than to create sweetness.

Points To Note:

1 This is also true in Work Groups or Churches. One foolish member can really undo or cancel out the efforts of many.

2. A person can be extremely gifted and smart, but if they are harboring sin in their life, then all their wisdom can become misdirected. One bad attitude, one prejudice, one area of arrogance can make the Church ineffective.

Ecclesiastes 10:1 reminds us that even small things have consequences.

Foolishness can't be hidden, verses 2-3:

Verse 2

² A wise man's heart is at his right hand; but a fool's heart at his left.

Right is a natural symbol for the strong and good, the right hand, Left is a symbol and for the weak and bad, the left hand ... The Latin word *sinister* means 'left.'"

Right and Left have for centuries been used as referring to good and bad. In fact we still use the expression, "my **right** hand man". The heart of the wise goes in the **right** direction...



Neurologists and psychoanalysts once believed children should be taught right-handedness, even if it meant tying the left hand behind the back.

The modern practice of shaking right hands in greeting dates back to the Roman custom of touching right hands to demonstrate **the absence of hidden weapons**.

The strongly anti-left Ancient Egyptians often depicted their enemies as left-handed.

A 2013 **Smithsonian Magazine** article run with the headline "**Two-Thirds Of The World Still Hates Lefties.**" Turns out, stigmas against left-handed people have been around for thousands of years, and are even ingrained in some languages. Synonyms for the Mandarin word "left" are things like incorrect, wrong, and weird. On top of that, according to Discovery News, "In many Muslim parts of the world, in parts of Africa as well as in India, the left hand is considered the dirty hand and it's considered offensive to offer that hand to anyone, even to help."

In America, at least, we've mostly stopped forcing lefties to learn to use their right hand. That's not the case everywhere, though. China, for example, claims that less than one percent of students are left-handed. If that were true, it would be strange: the global average of lefties comes in at 10-12 percent. A study in the journal *Endeavor* recently took on this question: Why are there no left-handers in China? There's nothing special about the genetics of people living in China that makes them less likely to be lefties. Chinese-Americans are just as likely to be left handed as any other Americans. The lefties in China are actually switching their dominant hands. Why? Because it's simply more difficult for them to stick with their naturally dominate hand than for people in Europe of the United States. Many Chinese characters require a right hand, says Discovery News.

The researchers also looked at India and Islamic countries and discovered that nearly two-thirds of the world's lefty population faces discrimination.

Right as Opposed to Left

Right and left play an important role in Jacob's final blessing to his grandsons, Ephraim and Manasseh (Gen. 48: 12–20), whom Joseph places at the left and right sides of Jacob, respectively (verse 13), expecting his father to place his right hand on Manasseh (the firstborn) and his left on Ephraim, and then bless them. But Jacob crosses his hands, placing his right hand on Ephraim (verse 14) and his left on Manasseh, despite Joseph's objections (verse 18). Jacob explains his actions by stating that Ephraim will be greater than Manasseh (verse 19).

Genesis 48:12-20

¹² And Joseph brought them out from between his knees, and he bowed himself with his face to the earth.

¹³ And Joseph took them both, Ephraim in his right hand toward Israel's left hand, and Manasseh in his left hand toward Israel's right hand, and brought them near unto him.

¹⁴ And Israel stretched out his right hand, and laid it upon Ephraim's head, who was the younger, and his left hand upon Manasseh's head, guiding his hands wittingly; for Manasseh was the firstborn.

¹⁵ And he blessed Joseph, and said, God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac did walk, the God which fed me all my life long unto this day,

¹⁶ The Angel which redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and let my name be named on them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.

¹⁷ And when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand upon the head of Ephraim, it displeased him: and he held up his father's hand, to remove it from Ephraim's head unto Manasseh's head.

¹⁸ And Joseph said unto his father, Not so, my father: for this is the firstborn; put thy right hand upon his head.

¹⁹ And his father refused, and said, I know it, my son, I know it: he also shall become a people, and he also shall be great: but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his seed shall become a multitude of nations.

²⁰ And he blessed them that day, saying, In thee shall Israel bless, saying, God make thee as Ephraim and as Manasseh: and he set Ephraim before Manasseh.

Verse 3

³ Yea also, when he that is a fool walketh by the way, his wisdom faileth him, and he saith to every one that he is a fool.

when he that is a fool walketh by the way... Here in The Bible where we see that God has a sense of humor. God says that a fool can be easily seen if we will just pay a little attention to what he or she is saying. When the fool stays at home, no one realizes his foolishness, but when he goes out into the world, everyone he comes in contact with, knows he is a fool.

A person lacking wisdom will manifest that in daily conduct.



There used to be a traffic sign on a very dangerous curve on an old Tennessee highway. It read, "Slow Down!" "You Might Meet Another Fool."

Foolishness in high places, verses 4-7:

Verse 4

⁴If the spirit of the ruler rise up against thee, leave not thy place; for yielding pacifieth great offences.

This is a just saying to those under a king, be wise and do not answer back to the ruler. Just quietly accept what he says, and it will usually pass over.

leave not thy place ... The wisest course of action when confronted with a ruler's displeasure is not to leave one's post or position, i.e. not to resign. Stand your ground, don't be a wise guy before the king. God expects us to be in submission, even to evil kings (1 Peter).

Verse 5

⁵There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, as an error which proceedeth from the **ruler**:

as an error which proceedeth from the ruler... Solomon sees that **Rulers** aren't always right. He makes errors, too. He is human.

The "Errors" (Sins) of King Solomon:

1 Kings 11:1-14

1 But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites:

²Of the nations concerning which the LORD said unto the children of Israel, **Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you:** for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love.

³And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: **and his wives turned away his heart.**

⁴For it came to pass, **when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods:** and **his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God**, as was the heart of David his father.

⁵For **Solomon went after** Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.

⁶And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father.

⁷**Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab**, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon.

⁸**And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods.**

The Results of God's Anger Against Solomon, God's Punishment:

⁹**And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice,**

¹⁰ And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the LORD commanded.

¹¹ Wherefore the LORD said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, **I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant.**

¹² Notwithstanding in thy days I will not do it for David thy father's sake: but I will rend it out of the hand of thy son.

¹³ Howbeit I will not rend away all the kingdom; but will give one tribe to thy son for David my servant's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake which I have chosen.

¹⁴ **And the LORD stirred up an adversary unto Solomon,** Hadad the Edomite: he was of the king's seed in Edom.

Why did this happen to King Solomon? **as an error which proceedeth from the ruler...**

Verse 6

⁶ Folly is set in great dignity, and the rich sit in low place.

The best candidate isn't always elected or selected. Other factors, such as owing someone a political favor, etc..., often enter in and cloud a leader's judgment. Rulers often make the mistake of appointing incompetent individuals to positions of power.

Roman Emperor Caligula appointed his horse a senator.



Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court

“She has this soft little tiny voice, and she can say really devastating things in that quiet voice.”
—NPR's Nina Totenberg

Prior to her appointment to The US Supreme Court, she was the lead Attorney for The ACLU.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg co-authored the book called *Sex Bias in the U.S. Code* in 1977 with a feminist, Brenda Feigen-Fasteau, for which they were paid with federal funds under Contract No. CR3AK010. The 230-page book was published by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. It was written to identify the federal laws that allegedly discriminate on account of sex and to promote ratification of the then-pending federal Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), for which Ginsburg was a fervent advocate. Here are some of Ginsburg's liberal recommendations set forth in her book *Sex Bias in the U.S. Code*.

She called for the sex-integration of Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts because they "perpetuate stereotyped sex roles"(145). She insisted on sex-integrating "college fraternity and sorority chapters" and replacing them with "college social societies." (169) She even cast Constitutional doubt on the legality of "Mother's Day and Father's Day as separate holidays." (146).

Ginsburg called for reducing the age of consent for sexual acts to persons who are "less than 12 years old." (102) She asserted that laws against "bigamists, persons cohabiting with more than one woman, and women cohabiting with a bigamist" are unconstitutional. (195) She objected to laws against prostitution because "prostitution, as a consensual act between adults, is arguably within the zone of privacy protected by recent constitutional decisions." (97) Ginsburg wrote that the Mann Act (which punishes those who engage in interstate sex traffic of women and girls) is "offensive." Such acts should be considered "within the zone of privacy." (98)

Ginsburg said that the concept of husband-breadwinner and wife-homemaker "must be eliminated from the code if it is to reflect the equality principle," (206) and she called for "a comprehensive program of government supported child care." (214) She demanded that we "firmly reject draft or combat exemption for women," stating that "women must be subject to the draft if men are." But, she added, "the need for affirmative action and for transition measures is particularly strong in the uniformed services." (218)

An indefatigable censor, Ginsburg listed hundreds of "sexist" words that must be eliminated from all statutes. Among words she found offensive were: man, woman, manmade, mankind, husband, wife, mother, father, sister, brother, son, daughter, serviceman, longshoreman, postmaster, watchman, seamanship, and "to man" (a vessel), even though most of these words with the *-man* suffix date back to Middle English in which it meant "human" and not specifically "male". (15-16). She even wanted he, she, him, her, his, and hers to be dropped down the Memory Hole. (52-53).

Point To Note:

1. Appointments that went to the wrong people often end up in folly.
2. There is nothing wrong with being rich, for the "rich" here are placed in contrast with fools. Solomon notes that among the rich there are often men of noble character and true leadership material.

Verse 7

⁷I have seen servants upon horses, and princes walking as servants upon the earth.

The Preacher wanted to remind us that not all is fair in this life. Foolish men are promoted or accepted to positions of great leadership. Some lowly men are unwisely exalted (**servants upon horses**) while some noblemen are humbled (**princes walking as servants upon the earth**).

Pastor Hank's Notes on: Ecclesiastes Or, The Preacher



Ecclesiastes 10

Chapter 10 Outline: (Folly and Wisdom, verses 1-20) Foolishness disgraces a wise man's honor, verse 1, Foolishness can't be hidden, verses 2-3, Foolishness in high places, verses 4-7, Foolishness in action, verses 8-10, The babbling talk of the foolish, verses 11-14, The fool at work, verse 15, How foolishness corrupts a nation, verses 16-20.

Ecclesiastes 10, Foolishness in action, verses 8-10:

Verse 8

⁸He that diggeth a pit shall fall into it; and whoso breaketh an hedge, a serpent shall bite him.

Solomon in the next few verses lists several examples of those who did wrong or foolish things and then suffered because of it. Solomon also wrote in:

Proverbs 26:27

²⁷Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein: and he that rolleth a stone, it will return upon him.

He that diggeth a pit shall fall into it... The New Testament way of saying this is: "whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Galatians 6:7)

and whoso breaketh an hedge, a serpent shall bite him... The hedge, is speaking of the hedge the Lord puts around the faithful. For the hedge to be removed, would bring an attack from that old **serpent**, the devil.

Verse 9

⁹Whoso removeth stones shall be hurt therewith; and he that cleaveth wood shall be endangered thereby.

Working with large stones can be dangerous, if the rocks slips or rolls back on you, it'll hurt. Splitting wood can be very dangerous, be very aware to the one who is splitting. The wood separates violently, sometimes, and can hit those standing there.

Everyday activities may result in disasters that no one can predict.

Verse 10

¹⁰If the iron be blunt, and he do not whet the edge, then must he put to more strength: but wisdom is profitable to direct.

If the ax is dull, and one does not sharpen the edge, then he must use more strength; but wisdom brings success: The fool will continue to use a dull ax, instead of being wise and sharpening the edge. The fool doesn't wisely consider the future, and how wise use of one's time in the present can make for a much better future.

The babbling talk of the foolish, verses 11-14:

Verse 11

¹¹ Surely the serpent will bite without enchantment; and a babbler is no better.

Surely the serpent will bite without enchantment... Knowing how to charm a snake is of no use if you let the snake bite you first.



and a babbler is no better... A whisperer, a backbiter, a busy tattling body, that goes from house to house, and, in a private manner, speaks evil of civil governments, of ministers of the word, and of other persons; and; in a secret way, defames a person and detracts from their characters: such an one is like a venomous viper, a poisonous serpent or adder; and there is no more guarding against him than against such a creature that bites secretly.



Verse 12

¹²The words of a wise man's mouth are gracious; but the lips of a fool will swallow up himself.

A wise man is careful what he says, and how he says it. His speech is full of grace. His tongue is used to build people up, instead of to tear them down. A fool talks loud, and says things he has not considered. He destroys others with his speech, and in turn destroys himself.

Unfortunately, **modern man** often tends to downplay the importance of his or her speech. Words have always been important with God, for they reveal the condition of the human heart:

Matthew 15:18-20

¹⁸But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man.

¹⁹For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:

²⁰These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.

Verse 13

¹³The beginning of the words of his mouth is foolishness: and the end of his talk is mischievous madness.

The more he talks, the worse it gets. This talk of this foolish person is what they are inside. Their hearts are filled with mischief, and that mischief comes out in their speech. The speech gets worse every time he speaks.

Proverbs 15:2

²The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness.



What did he always used to say?

Verse 14

¹⁴A fool also is full of words: a man cannot tell what shall be; and what shall be after him, who can tell him?

A fool also is full of words... The fool is very talkative, says the same thing over and over again; uses an abundance of waste words, that have no meaning in them; utters everything that comes to mind without much thought, without any order or judgment; has an opinion on every subject, whether he knows anything of it or not.

a man cannot tell what shall be; and what shall be after him, who can tell him?... You ever talk to a fool? What the fool is talking about? What is the drift of his speech? Where it will end? When will it end? What does he bring to the conversation? The fool's speech is so noisy, confused, and incoherent that no man can tell future things, or what will come to pass...



The fool at work, Verse 15:

¹⁵ The labour of the foolish wearieth every one of them, because he knoweth not how to go to the city.

The foolish pretends he knows the way to the city, when in fact, he does not. If he does not know the way to the city, he definitely does not know what is to come. The fool has no sense of direction or goal. They live their life as if it were meaningless, directionless.

How foolishness corrupts a nation, verses 16-20:

Verse 16

¹⁶ Woe to thee, O land, when thy king is a child, and thy princes eat in the morning!

Woe to thee, O land, when thy king is a child... A nation's first need is a mature leader. "Child" could also be a man in years, who has never grown up...



and thy princes eat in the morning!... The feasting in the morning refers to early morning partying.

Isaiah 5:11

¹¹ Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, till wine inflame them!

The **child king** could also be a youthful, inexperienced ruler, who does not realize his responsibilities, and is the tool of evil his advisors: **thy princes eat in the morning!**



Verse 17

¹⁷ 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!

This is saying that the king should be a son of noble character. They do not get up early to drink, but to eat for **strength**. A king that was drunk could not lead his people properly. The people are blessed when their king is of noble character, and is not a drunkard.

Godly individuals eat at the right time and for the right reasons. Such men view their positions as one of great responsibility and are committed to the good of the nation. Hence blessed is the nation whose rulers do not see their position as being merely for their own enrichment.

Proverbs 31:4-5

⁴ It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink:

⁵ Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted.

Verse 18

¹⁸ By much slothfulness the building decayeth; and through idleness of the hands the house droppeth through.

All buildings require a certain amount of care. If they are not cared for, they will fall into ruin and decay. "Slothfulness" is speaking of laziness. This is still speaking of kings, or rulers. It is even worse for them to be lazy, because if they don't care for their **building (their kingdom)**, it will **decay**, be in ruin.

Verse 19

¹⁹ A feast is made for laughter, and wine maketh merry: but money answereth all things.

A feast is made for laughter... Instead of eating for strength (17), such men try to turn every meal into a party or an excuse to eat and drink to excess.

and wine maketh merry... The sluggard or the fool is constantly needing a drink to put them in a cheerful-merry mood.

but money answereth all things... Human philosophy says that **money** can fix everything, resolve every problem, and the supply the answer to every human desire.

The truth is that **money** does not and cannot ever answer all things. Money cannot ever forgive your sins, save your life from an incurable disease, give you eternal life, buy you access to God, deliver you from the bondage of drugs and alcohol and porn; for money is not the answer to all things.

Mark 8:36

³⁶ For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

You don't need a little more money, you need a lot more of Jesus! Make Jesus now the love of your life and the Lord over your money, financial affairs and all other areas of your life. As your Lord, allow Him to show you any hidden things in your heart that would steal your heart, your affection and your trust in Him.

Verse 20

²⁰ Curse not the king, no not in thy thought; and curse not the rich in thy bedchamber: for a bird of the air shall carry the voice, and that which hath wings shall tell the matter.

Careless words have a way of being discovered by those in authority.

for a bird of the air shall carry the voice, and that which hath wings shall tell the matter... This is where we get the expression, idiom: "**a little bird told me**" which means: Someone told me, but I'm not telling you who it is.



Pastor Hank's Notes on: Ecclesiastes Or, The Preacher



Ecclesiastes 11

Chapter 11 Outline: Working for a profit that can't be immediately seen, verses 1-2, Cause and Effect, verses 3-4, The limitations of knowledge, verse 5, Sowing seed with more trust than certainty, verse 6, A final flirtation with the under the sun premise, verses 7-8, Even in youth, remember that judgment will one day come, verses 9-10.

Ecclesiastes 11

Working for a profit that can't be immediately seen, verses 1-2:

Verse 1

1 Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days.

Cast thy bread upon the waters... Is speaking of sharing bread with those less fortunate. When you give bread to the poor or cast it in the river, there will be no return. When you give to those in need, you are giving to God. God will give back to you in such abundance, you will never know need.

Psalm 112:9

⁹ He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor; his righteousness endureth for ever; his horn shall be exalted with honour.

Luke 6:38

³⁸ Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

for thou shalt find it after many days... Like a farmer who throws his seed on the dirt and waits for the seed to grow, when you cast to the poor, you will grow in God's eyes.

Verse 2

² Give a portion to seven, and also to eight; for thou knowest not what evil shall be upon the earth.

Give a portion to seven, and also to eight... This is expounding on verse 1. It is saying, do not stop by giving one person bread, but give to everyone in need. Ecclesiastes 11:2 is telling us exactly what is meant by, "cast thy bread upon the waters." "It means to give a portion to seven yea, even unto eight." Why should this be called casting bread upon the waters? Simply because benevolence

should be practiced without either any desire or expectation of ever getting it back, exactly as would be the case of casting bread into a raging river.

for thou knowest not what evil shall be upon the earth... Solomon is also saying, "Help as many people as you can now, because a time may be coming that you will need help from them"

Cause and Effect, verses 3-4:

Verse 3

³ 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.

If the clouds be... The idea is that the future is beyond our control as are the acts of God in nature. The clouds being full and pouring rain is natural, the tree falling is not under our control either. This is just saying that life is uncertain. We don't really know when it's goon a rain, the Weatherman on TV is often wrong... Even in our present day of advanced technology, we are still completely helpless in face of adverse weather.



Gold Star-Very Important!!

The next couple of verses we're gonna be looking the practical job/work of a Farmer.

Spiritually speaking all Believers are Farmers!

Luke 9:62

⁶² And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

Psalm 126:5-6

⁵ They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.

⁶ He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

Mark 4:1-20

1 And he began again to teach by the sea side: and there was gathered unto him a great multitude, so that he entered into a ship, and sat in the sea; and the whole multitude was by the sea on the land.

2 And he taught them many things by parables, and said unto them in his doctrine,

3 Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow:

4 And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up.

5 And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth:

6 But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away.

7 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit.

⁸ And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred.

⁹ And he said unto them, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

¹⁰ And when he was alone, they that were about him with the twelve asked of him the parable.

¹¹ And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables:

¹² That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them.

¹³ And he said unto them, Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables?

¹⁴ The sower soweth the word.

¹⁵ And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.

¹⁶ And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness;

¹⁷ And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.

¹⁸ And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word,

¹⁹ And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

²⁰ And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.

It's been said that Farmers are the biggest Believers in God, Why? Because they sow/plant by Faith! They can rototill the ground in the Spring and plant/sow the seeds and what can happen? A Spring Frost can occur, heavy Spring Rains can flood and wash out everything. Summer heat and drought, insects, disease, Fall Hurricanes, Fall Frost...

A Farmer sows and trusts God for the results, **so should a Borned Again Believer, plant and sow the WORD of God, knowing that will be oppositions:** The Human "Spring Frost can occur, heavy Hum Spring Rains can flood..." and test your Christian walk/witness for Him!

Your Family, your Job, Money, The Devil, Politics can infect a serious Spiritual disease on YOU!

Verse 4

⁴ He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap.

This is speaking of someone who makes excuses for not doing things.

A Farmer can look at the Wind and Clouds and excuse himself from sowing...

Just because the wind is blowing, is no reason not to sow. The idea is to find a way to sow in the wind, not to make excuses why you cannot sow.

We can also be too cautious in this life. The unpredictable future can paralyze some people into **inaction**. The farmer who is ever watching the weather, and waiting for the ideal conditions---too

much hesitation, too much caution, too much calculation. There are risks in doing anything, but don't let such things deter you from living or trying.

Just face the fact that things may go wrong, but get out there and do your work anyway!

Spiritually speaking, the Winds are also a time of trying for the Christian.

Mark 4:35-41

³⁵ And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side.

³⁶ And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships.

³⁷ And there arose a great storm of **wind**, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full.

³⁸ And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?

³⁹ And he arose, and rebuked the **wind**, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

⁴⁰ And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?

⁴¹ And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, **What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?**

Remember, God is control of the weather!

Spiritually speaking, we as Christians shouldn't worry about **THE WEATHER** or make excuses why we can't Witness for Jesus, Inviting a friend to Church, handing out some Tracts...

The Real Reasons We Don't Invite Friends to Church:



1. I Don't Have All the Answers.

What if you invite someone to church and they ask you about why you believe certain stuff and you have no clue? You might look stupid or, even worse, you might make your church look stupid.

1 Peter 3:15

¹⁵ But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

Part of being a Christian is knowing the teachings of Christianity.

2. It Could Risk Our Relationship.

You're afraid that inviting a friend to church might communicate you think he/she is messed up or that you don't respect their beliefs as-is. Maybe your friend even said before that they're a Christian but doesn't go to church. If you invite him and he/she declines, that could make your relationship kind of weird.

3. It's Too Foreign to Them.

It's always that way, before you were a Christian, what did you know? Teach, Tell, and Try!

4. It's Not Relevant to Them.

You know that sleeping in on a Sunday morning or going home to watch TV after a long day at work is more appealing to your friends than waking up for worship or joining a weeknight Bible study? When you've mentioned participating in church events, they show no interest, and no need.

5. They Wouldn't Belong.

Oh, yes they would!

6. They're working.

It's estimated that 30 percent of the U.S. population works on Sunday, which is the day that over 90 percent of worship services are held. That's even higher for young adults in some areas where service jobs and College Campuses are located. Plus, many people work late Saturday night and getting up the first thing in the morning to gather with people they don't know to worship a God they aren't sure of just doesn't make sense. (So sad...)

7. My friend said no to me last year.

Why do we give up so easily? And God could not have done something in their lives in the past year of time?

8. Our services and people are unpredictable. (This is true and interesting to a point)

Will everyone behave? We are not going to invite unless everything is perfect that day.

9. It's the pastor's job!

Oh, no it's not!

Matthew 28:19-20

¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

10. I just don't think about it. Sad...

James 1:22

²² But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

The limitations of knowledge, verse 5:

Verse 5

⁵ As thou knowest not what is the way of the spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the womb of her that is with child: even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all.

Solomon again reminds us of the limitations of human knowledge. We don't know the way of the wind or how the bones grow in the womb of a mother. Even though we do not completely understand everything about the development of the unborn child, this doesn't keep us from having children.

The Preacher brings us to a place of humility and submission to God and His works that again pushes us **out of the entrenched under the sun premise**.

Sowing seed with more trust than certainty, verse 6:

Verse 6

⁶ In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good.

Generally, early in the morning, the wind is not blowing. You, also, are fresh and energetic in the morning. You have more energy to work. This is not just speaking of farming, but is speaking of all who have work to do.

Do not be lazy, get up and be about your work. Also, do not quit half-way through the job.

A final flirtation with the under the sun premise, verses 7-8:

Verse 7

⁷ Truly the light is sweet, and a pleasant thing it is for the eyes to behold the sun:

⁸ 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.**

But if a man live many years, and rejoice in them all... God believes that throughout life, in every stage of life, from youth to old age-life can be appreciated and enjoyed.

in them all... Means, all our stages of life! And we should enjoy them all!

There are seven stages of life, they are:

1. Babes/ Newborn Babes, here 1 Peter 2:1, and:

1 Corinthians 3:1

¹ And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto **babes** in Christ.

2. Little Children

1 John 2:1

¹ My **little children**, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

3. Children

Galatians 3:26

²⁶ For ye are all the **children** of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

4. Young Men & 5. Fathers

1 John 2:13

¹³ I write unto you, **fathers**, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, **young men**, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father.

6. Elders

1 Peter 5:1

1 The **elders** which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

1 Peter 5:5

⁵ Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the **elder**. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

7. Aged/Very Aged

Job 15:10

¹⁰ With us are both the grayheaded and **very aged** men, much elder than thy father.

Philemon 9

⁹ Yet for love's sake I rather beseech thee, being such an one as Paul the **aged**, and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ.

the eyes to behold the sun, yet let him remember the days of darkness... The sun gives light, but the under the sun premise seemed to bring the Preacher (and us) into days of darkness; and if lived under that premise, those dark days will be many and there will be much vanity to come.

All that cometh is vanity... All things which happen to any man belonging only to this life, whether they be comfortable or troublesome, they are but vain and minor, because they are short and passing.

Even in youth, remember that judgment will one day come, verses 9-10:

Verse 9

⁹ Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment.

Solomon now looks back from old age to the days of his youth, before an **under the sun** premise that took a toll upon his life and mind. **He hoped for the better for his younger readers.**

Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth... God actually "commands" young people to **Rejoice** and be happy, for doesn't such come naturally? **Actually, no.** How many young people are bitter, depressed, discouraged, resentful, bored, unhappy, confused, etc..? Instead of a period of great happiness, the temptation exists to allow our youth to be in a period of great frustration, turmoil and rage.

Points To Note:

1. Youth leads the pathway of life before them. Their hopes, dreams, and ambitions will be shaped by attitudes formed while they are still young. The time to learn how to enjoy life is when you are young.

2. Carefully note that God speaks to young people. Young people need to realize that they are accountable to God, and there are specific commands directed to them (Ephesians 3).

3. Parents and young people also need to realize that important attitudes, perspectives and convictions are formed during the days of youth. Unfortunately, even many Christian parents tend to excuse the bad attitudes on the part of their older children, often opting for the excuse, "Well, it is hard to be a teenager these days" or "I don't want to push Religion on them, I'll let them decide for themselves...". God doesn't have such an attitude. Rather, God is saying, "The time to get your head on straight is while you are young!"

A couple of quotes from some old men and women that looked back on life and wanted to help the younger:

"Looking back, I have this to regret, that too often when I loved, I did not say so." - David Grayson

"Old age is like everything else. To make a success of it, you've got to start young." - Theodore Roosevelt

"Old age is a shipwreck." - Charles de Gaulle "Old age is the verdict of life." - Amelia Barr

"Maybe all one can do is hope to end up with the right regrets." - Arthur Miller

"By the time you're eighty years old you've learned everything. You only have to remember it." - George Burns

Verse 10

¹⁰ Therefore remove sorrow from thy heart, and put away evil from thy flesh: for childhood and youth are vanity.

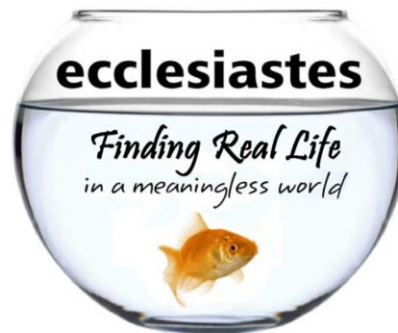
and put away evil from thy flesh; or body... Such as hedonism and uncleanness, to which young men are addicted: the advice is much the same, in:

2 Timothy 2:22

²² Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.



Pastor Hank's Notes on: Ecclesiastes Or, The Preacher



Ecclesiastes 12

Chapter 12 Outline: The value of remembering God and eternity in youth, verse 1, A poetic description of advancing age, verses 2-5, A final plea: Remember God before you go to life beyond the sun, verses 6-7, A final analysis of life under the sun, verse 8, The Preacher prods us towards true wisdom, verses 9-12, **Conclusion:** Live as one preparing for judgment and eternity, verse 13-14.

This is one of the most beautiful chapters in the Bible. Here we have here Solomon's conclusion to The Book of Ecclesiastes. He had found his way out of the doubts and perplexities that for a time had confused him; and here (in these passages) he thunders the great doctrinal teachings of God's Word.

Ecclesiastes 12, The value of remembering God and eternity in youth, Verse 1:

1 Remember now thy **Creator** in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;

Creator... It is amazing that the word “**Creator**” in the Hebrew text is plural, like **אֱלֹהִים - Elohiym- God** in Genesis 1:1. The Father, The Word and The Holy Spirit all played a part in our creation (John 1:4; Genesis 1:2).

Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth... Solomon now looks back from old age to the days of his **youth**, before an **under the sun** premise took a toll upon his life and mind. He hoped for better for his young readers (us).

Youth... Certainly includes more than just childhood or the teenage years. Sadly, there are many people who remember God in those years but they forget Him in their 20"s, 30"s and 40"s.

Points To Note:

- 1.** Youth has the habit of demanding "rights", resisting and questioning rightful authority, including God's authority.
- 2.** There is also the great temptation to concentrate on earthly goals when one is young. Often, getting ahead in a career, amassing physical possessions, and the quest for recreation and travel takes young people away from God.

According to Financial Adviser Converge: Millennials save more of their income than older generations. Don't believe it? Look at a recent survey by **Merrill Edge**, which found millennials

say they save 36% more than their general population counterparts report as over a third stash away more than 20% of their salary per year.

As for what they're saving for, that's another story. Whereas baby boomers save for retirement, millennials want financial freedom and save for a desired lifestyle rather than exiting the workforce. Millennials would rather spend money on travel, dining, and fitness than save for their financial future. They are also more focused on certain milestones like landing their dream job or traveling the world, and are less worried about getting married or having kids. Bottom line, millennials are saving, just for shorter-term goals as compared to their parents.

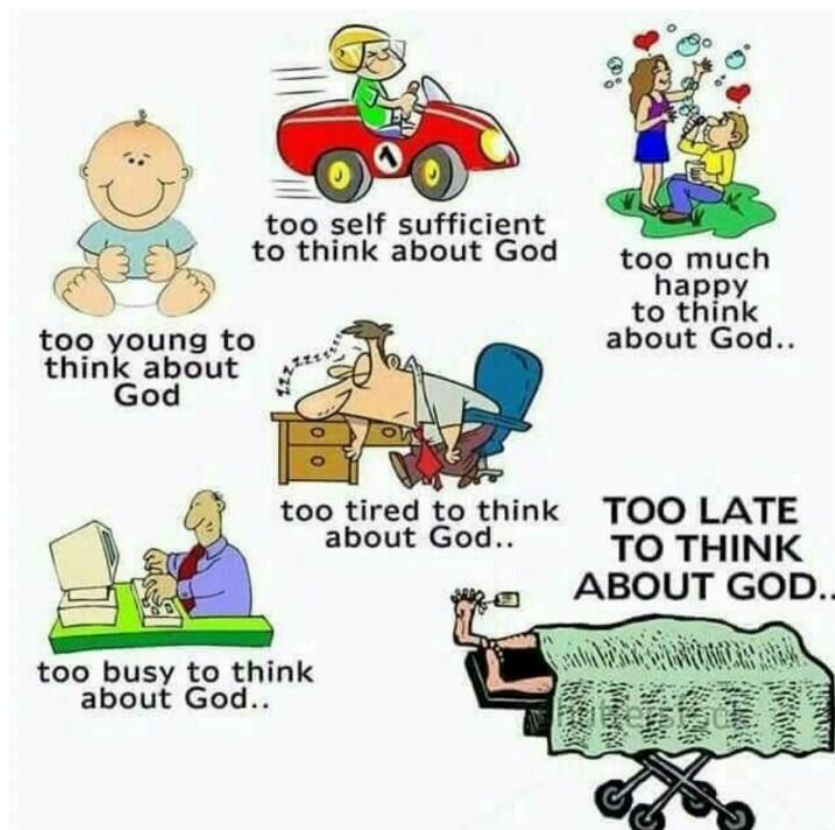
3. Young people, need to remember that all they are and all they have is due to the fact that there is a God.

4. The days of youth are days of strength and vigor and are days in which they can really accomplish something for God, the days in which we can be busily involved in spreading the gospel, doing good deeds, etc...

5. Youth is also an ideal time to commit oneself fully to God: Youth is the time when self-surrender is still possible, but a life lived for self can harden the heart. God is not impressed by the person who is trying to live as much for self until the possible last moment.

6. Youth: Will you squander the days of our strength? Will you spend most of our time, money and talents on earthly goals or vain pursuits? Or will you give God the best of your youth?

while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them... Days of the misfortune, affliction and death.



A poetic description of advancing age, verses 2-5. Verse 2:

² While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain:

While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened... When the light of the sun, the moon, and the stars shall grow dim for you. This is speaking about declining eyesight which often afflicts older people.

nor the clouds return after the rain... Clouds are often symbolic of trouble. "one storm succeeds another". The word "**return**" suggests that old age brings one complication or problem after another. One health problem is followed after another.

Verse 3

³ In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened,

In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble... The arms and hands that keep the body (house) now begin to tremble. Parkinson's disease...

and the strong men shall bow themselves... The legs and knees begin to sag/bow.

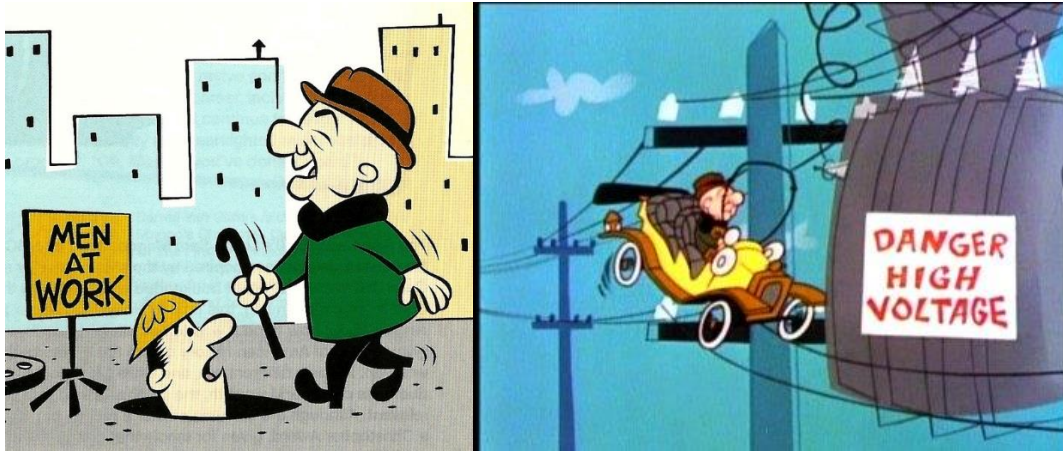


and the grinders cease because they are few... No more teeth!



"Wake up. The cat's got your teeth."

and those that look out of the windows be darkened... The eyes becoming dim with age.

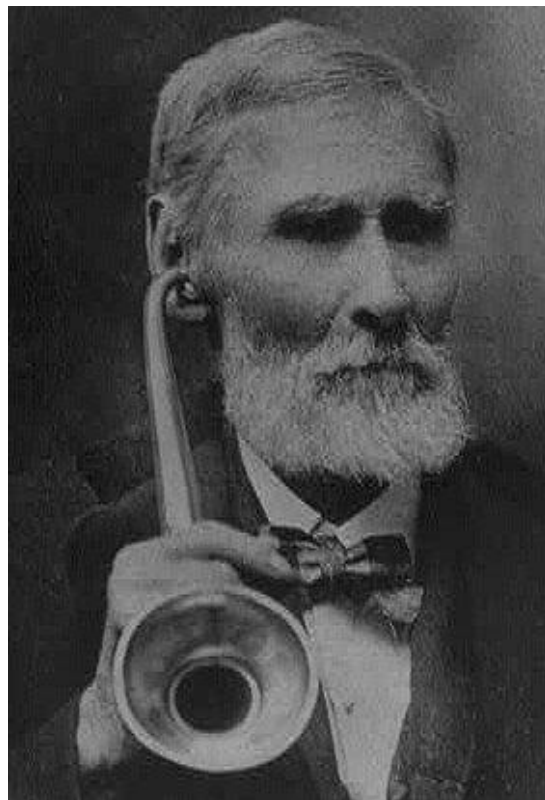


Verse 4

⁴ And the doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low, and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird, and all the daughters of musick shall be brought low;

And the doors shall be shut in the streets... **“Doors”**: Lips that do not have much to say. The lips are sinking in, due to the loss of teeth. **“In the streets”** suggest communication with the world; but now such activity has ceased.

when the sound of the grinding is low... The ears become weaker and weaker.



and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird... Sleep becomes more difficult and one is easily awakened.

Elderly Insomnia: Difficulty falling asleep and/or staying asleep, a disorder known as insomnia, is more prevalent than people may realize. In fact, insomnia for seniors is very common, affecting almost 50% of adults 60 and older, reports the National Institute of Health.



and all the daughters of musick shall be brought low... Singing and music are less appreciated. The voice of the aged, the organs of speech, which are now humbled and frail, so that one's ability to sing is greatly impaired. The aged has not only lost his ability to sing, but the loss of hearing means they cannot even appreciate music.

Verse 5

⁵ Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail: because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets:

Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way... High-Steep places... The aged are often afraid of falling, especially of breaking a hip.

FYI:

About **one third** of the senior population over the age of 65 falls each year, but since many incidents go unreported by seniors and unrecognized by family members or caregivers – this estimate is most likely quite low.

Approximately 9,500 deaths of older Americans are associated with falls each year. Falls are the leading cause of death from injury among people 65 and older, and the risk of falls increases proportionately with age. At 80 years, over half of seniors fall annually.

Here are some more surprising facts and statistics related to falling:

- 87 percent of all fractures in the elderly are due to falls. Two-thirds of those who fall will do so again within six months.
- When an older person falls, his or her hospital stays are almost twice as long as those of older patients who are admitted for any other reason.
- Among people aged 65 to 69, one out of every 200 falls results in a hip fracture. That number increases to one out of every 10 for those aged 85 and older.

- One-fourth of seniors who fracture a hip from a fall will die within six months of the injury.
- Many falls do not result in injuries, yet 47 percent of non-injured seniors who fall cannot get up without assistance.
- For seniors who fall and are unable to get up on their own, the period of time spent immobile often affects their health outcomes. Muscle cell breakdown starts to occur within 30-60 minutes of compression due to falling. Dehydration, pressure sores, hypothermia, and pneumonia are other complications that may result.

Falls, with or without injury, also carry a heavy quality of life impact. A growing number of older adults fear falling and, as a result, limit their activities and social engagements. This can result in further physical decline, depression, social isolation, and feelings of helplessness. The most profound effect of falling is the loss of independent living.

Fall Prevention Safety: 20 Things You Can Do to Help

1. Remove obstacles inside and outside of the house that could cause tripping.
2. Install handrails and lights on staircases, with light switches at the top and bottom of the stairs. You may even consider glow-in-the-dark or lighted switches.
3. Add nonslip treads for bare wooden steps.
4. Install shower and tub grab bars in the bathroom, around the toilet and the tub.
5. Place no-slip mats on the shower floor and bathtub.
6. Secure loose rugs with double-faced tape, tacks, or slip-resistant backing.
7. Repair loose, wooden floorboards and carpeting.
8. Store clothing, dishes, food and other necessities within easy reach.
9. Immediately clean spilled liquids, grease, or food.
10. Paint doorsills with a different, highlighting color to avoid tripping.
11. Make home lighting brighter, but prevent glare. Place night lights in the bedroom, bathroom and hallways. Place a lamp within reach of the bed for middle-of-the-night needs.
12. Store working flashlights in easy-to-find places in case of power outages.
13. Have vision checked often and regularly.
14. Ask the doctor to review medications regularly for side effects and interactions.
15. If he or she is able, have the senior start exercising on a regular basis — tai chi or yoga can increase flexibility and strengthen muscles and joints.
16. If the senior can't stand comfortably, have him or her exercise in a chair.
17. Have the senior wear sensible shoes. They should be properly fitting, sturdy shoes with nonskid soles.
18. Note any health conditions such as dizziness, joint pain, numbness, or shortness of breath when walking. Tell the doctor, should any of these occur. He or she may evaluate muscle strength, balance and walking style (gait) as well.
19. Have the senior use assistive devices, if needed. The doctor might recommend using a cane or walker to keep him or her steady.
20. Consider a PERS (Personal Emergency Response System) unit that will alert others when help is needed.

If necessary, ask the doctor for a referral to an occupational therapist. He or she can help brainstorm other fall-prevention strategies.

Continuing, verse 5:

and the almond tree shall flourish... That pleasant food would be shunned by the aged because they lose their sense of taste. **Why? and desire shall fail...**

and the grasshopper shall be a burden... The point here is that the lightest load is a burden to the aged. It means we would say: "Why, that old man couldn't even carry a grasshopper."

and desire shall fail... Desire for food, desire for sex...

because man goeth to his long home... Man's long home is after death, his eternal home.

and the mourners go about the streets... This is a reference to the paid mourners employed in ancient times to bewail the departed. The New Testament mentions these in connection with the raising of the daughter of Jairus.

Our eternal home can either be comfort or torment. While life here is temporary and fleeting, eternity is permanent! The verse also seems to reveal the ineffectiveness of human power. All that we can do when a person dies is mourn, we are completely helpless in the face of death.



A Little Humor on Being Old...

Pastor Hank's Notes on: Ecclesiastes Or, The Preacher



Ecclesiastes 12

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A final plea: Remember God before you go to life beyond the sun, verses 6-7:

Verse 6

⁶Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern.

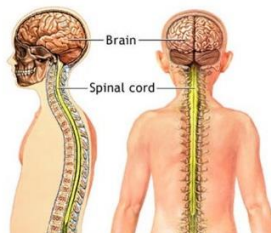
Verses 6 and 7 are speaking of death. The "**silver cord being loosed**" and the "**golden bowl be broken**" is speaking of the **life** of man being over, or poured out. Age has cut him off from life. The water of life, now, does not flow.

The **silver cord is the spinal cord**, so called from the spinal nerve's likeness to a cord. Just as the previous verses have described the external evidences of old age, these explain the internal changes that bring death to the body itself. The **golden bowl** (so called from its priceless value) **is the container for the brain itself**. When the one is loosed and the other broken, death ensues.

The Central Nervous System is made up of the brain and spinal cord. The brain functions to receive nerve impulses from the spinal cord and cranial nerves. The spinal cord contains the nerves that carry messages between the brain and the body.

Central Nervous System

- Brain and Spinal Cord



the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern... In the Bible, both light and water symbolize life; and in the picture here, either a broken pitcher at the fountain or a broken wheel at the cistern would cut off the supply of water. Thus all four of the things in this verse are picture references to death.



Verse 7

⁷ Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

Genesis 3:19

¹⁹ In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

This is why it is so important to remember your Creator in this life; because when this life is over, one will answer to the eternal God and to eternity.

Solomon at this point had found his spiritual footing. While estranged from God and depending upon human wisdom, he asked, **“Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?”** earlier in Ecclesiastes 3:21. Here he confidently affirmed that man's spirit returns to God who gave it. Faith had won the victory over doubt!

This very passage points us beyond anything "under the sun", in the words your Creator, and it invites response to Him. It also points us to the present, as the time of opportunity. Death has not yet reached out to us: let it rattle its chains at us and stir us into action!

and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it...

Note on Spirit: Man has a Tri-Part Nature: Body, Soul & Spirit.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

²³ And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole **spirit** and **soul** and **body** be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

****The apostle Paul describes the complete makeup of a human being with a combination of three different words: **spirit** and **soul** and **body**.**

****The words spirit, soul, and body are translated from the three New Testament Greek words: pneuma, psuche, and soma, respectively. In the Hebrew language of the Old Testament the same three words are ruach, nephesh and geshem, respectively.**

Body= Man is made up of physical material, the body, that can be seen and touched.

THE DISTINCTION OF SOUL AND SPIRIT: Some teach that the soul and the spirit are the same thing. But this will not work when one looks at the Bible.

Luke 1:46-47

⁴⁶ And Mary said, **My soul** doth magnify the Lord,

⁴⁷ **And my spirit** hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

Hebrews 4:12 (you have division)

¹² For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing **even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit**, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Genesis 2:7

⁷ And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

1) The dust of the ground (The body) 2) The breath of Life (The spirit) 3) A living soul (The soul)

It is in the soul where fleshly lusts, desires, and appetites arise. Soul is emotion.

1 Peter 2:11

¹¹ Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the **soul**;

When one dies, the spirit returns back to God!

Ecclesiastes 12:7

⁷ Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and **the spirit** shall return unto God who gave it.

Luke 23:46

⁴⁶ And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my **spirit**: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.

A final analysis of life under the sun, verse 8:

Verse 8

⁸ Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher; all is vanity.

Why does this statement appear just here? This is somewhat of a signature, indicating that Solomon himself is the author of these final verses just as he was the author of the rest of Ecclesiastes. No other person could possibly have inserted this here. The words stand, not only as a signature, but also, as an introduction to the final verses, just as he introduced us to The Book of Ecclesiastes.

Ecclesiastes 1:1-2

1 The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.

² Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity.

saith the preacher... Reflects the hortatory nature of this book and especially these closing words. Solomon has indeed been "preaching" to us. Let us never tire of being "preached to".

all is vanity... With the **under the sun** premise, not only is life meaningless, but all is vanity. Nothing has meaning. This striving to find a meaning in one's life is a primary motivational force in man and Solomon finally has the answer to life.

The Preacher prods us towards true wisdom, verses 9-12:

Verse 9

⁹ And moreover, because the preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yea, he gave good heed, and sought out, and set in order many proverbs.

The Preacher - He urges not his title as a king, but his character as a **preacher**, to recommend what he had written: every good preacher should be regarded; not such who are ignorant preachers of the law, but faithful ministers of the Gospel, who are sent of God, and have felt and experienced what they deliver to others

Taught - As God gave him this wisdom, that he might be a teacher of others. So he used it to that end.

Gave heed - He did not utter whatever came into his mind, but seriously pondered both his matter and words.

and sought out, and set in order many proverbs... Sought out; both by the exercise of his own mind, and by reading and learning from others. Set in order; or, directed or fitted. He selected such as were most useful.

1 Kings 4:32

³² And he spake three thousand proverbs: and his songs were a thousand and five.

Verse 10

¹⁰ The preacher sought to find out acceptable words: and that which was written was upright, even words of truth.

acceptable words... Such as would comfort and profit the readers.

and that which was written was upright... Void of all insincerity and falsehood...

Paul's Warning to Us! Romans 16:18: ¹⁸For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and **fair speeches** deceive the hearts of the simple.

even words of truth... which come from the God of truth, that cannot lie, as all Scripture does; of which Christ, who is the truth, is the sum and substance; and which are inspired by the Spirit of truth, and led into by him, and made effectual to saving purposes; and which holds good of the whole Scripture, called the Scripture of truth, Daniel 10:1; and of the Gospel, which is the word of truth, and of every doctrine of it, John 17:17.

John 17:17

¹⁷ Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

John 14:6

⁶ Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Verse 11

¹¹ The words of the wise are as goads, and as nails fastened by the masters of assemblies, which are given from one shepherd.

The words of the wise are as goads, and as nails... Two shepherd's tools are in view: one use to motivate reluctant animals, the other to secure those who might otherwise wander into dangerous territory. Both goads and nails picture aspects of applied wisdom.

The goad was a rod with an iron spike, or sharpened at the end used for driving oxen. The purpose of goads is to prod the sluggish to action. Good proverbs do that. We all need a good "goad" now and then.

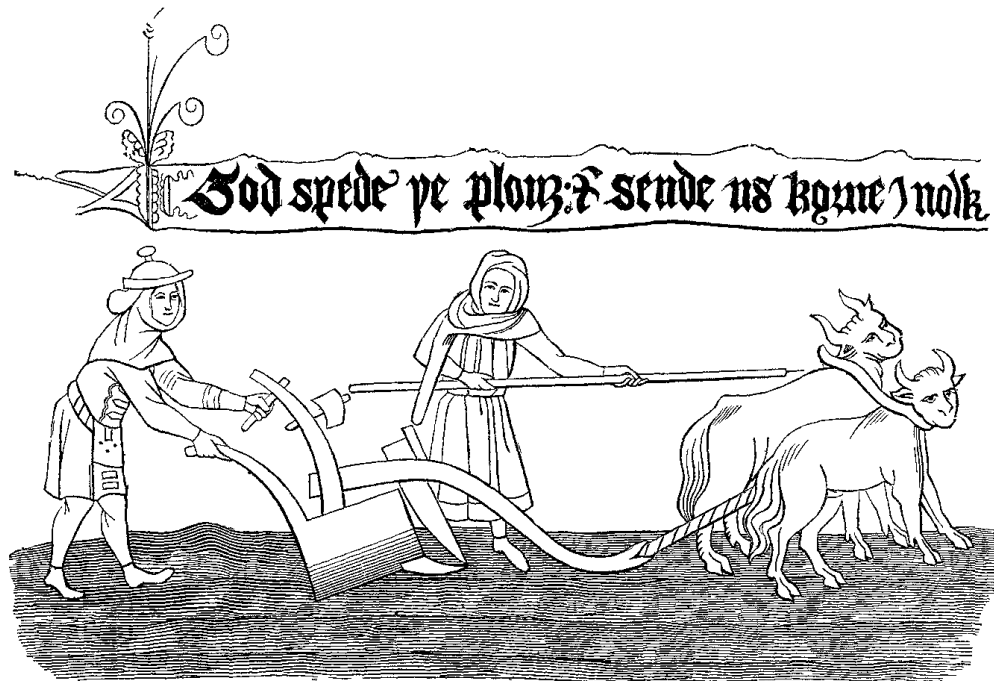


Fig. 18.—Ploughmen.—Fac-simile of a Miniature in a very ancient Anglo-Saxon Manuscript published by Shaw, with legend "God Spede ye Plough, and send us Korne onow."

and as nails fastened by the masters of assemblies... These are the truths and doctrines of the word, when they have a place in the heart, and become the "engrafted word"

James 1:21

²¹ Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the **engrafted word**, which is able to save your souls.

Nails - Piercing into men's dull minds, which make powerful and abiding impressions in them. The words of Scripture are like nails in the sense that they establish a definite and sure reference point, something upon which you can hang everything, a definite point that will not move with time and culture. They also "nail down" all sorts of truths, so that we can say, "this is the truth", "this is the final say".

Masters - By the teachers of God's church, appointed of God for that work.

Shepherd - From Christ, the great Shepherd of the church in all ages.

which are given from one shepherd... Shepherd here and in many places in The Bible is a reference to God. This is a very important verse, because here Solomon recognizes the Word of God as the ultimate authority.

Verse 12

¹² And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh.

In the flesh, mankind is constantly trying to learn new things in books. All gaining of knowledge takes much work. The continuous study of books becomes wearisome, as we grow older.

The Preacher understood how one should proclaim and teach God's truth, verses 9-12:

1. He should teach **the people knowledge, verse 9.**

Proverbs 22:20

20 Have not I written to thee excellent things in counsels and knowledge,

2. He should seek **to find out acceptable words, verse 10.**

1 Kings 4:29-30

²⁹ And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea shore.

³⁰ And Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt.

3. He should seek to bring forth that which is **upright - words of truth, verse 10.**

4. He should make his words as **are as goads, and as nails fastened**, with point and direction, **verse 11.**

2 Timothy 3:16-17

¹⁶ All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

¹⁷ That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

5. He should bring forth the words **given by one Shepherd, verse 11.**

Psalm 80

1 Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou that ledest Joseph like a flock; thou that dwellest between the cherubims, shine forth.

² Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh stir up thy strength, and come and save us.

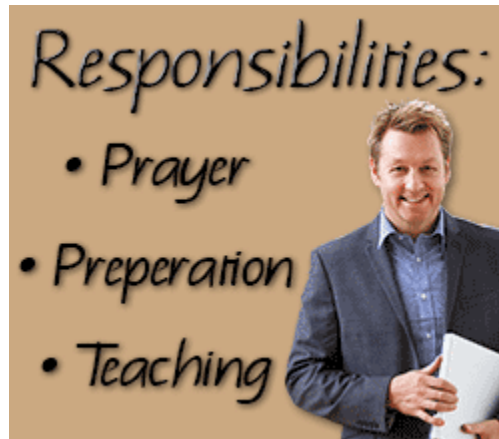
³ Turn us again, O God, and cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved.

6. He should realize that good **study is a weariness of the flesh** and be willing to pay that price.

1 Corinthians 4:6

⁶ And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another.

Being a Teacher for God:



Pastor Hank's Notes on: Ecclesiastes Or, The Preacher



Ecclesiastes 12

Chapter 12 Outline: The value of remembering God and eternity in youth, verse 1, A poetic description of advancing age, verses 2-5, A final plea: Remember God before you go to life beyond the sun, verses 6-7, A final analysis of life under the sun, verse 8, The Preacher prods us towards true wisdom, verses 9-12, **Conclusion:** Live as one preparing for judgment and eternity, verse 13-14.

This is one of the most beautiful chapters in the Bible. Here we have here Solomon's conclusion to The Book of Ecclesiastes. He had found his way out of the doubts and perplexities that for a time had confused him; and here (in these passages) he thunders the great doctrinal teachings of God's Word.

Conclusion: Live as one preparing for judgment and eternity, verse 13-14:

Verse 13

¹³ Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter... After 12 chapters and 12 verses the final result after all is learned. After this long survey of human affairs, chiefly on the sad and vain side, the conclusion has weight. It is the word of one who has tried it himself and examined it in other men.

Fear God, and keep his commandments... Solomon has searched to find the secret of life. He ponders every natural situation that man has experienced. Suddenly, Solomon turns from the natural man to the spirit of man. He finds the answer there. The only solution to any problem we have is in God. The secret to a truly successful life is to fear God and keep His commandments.

Jesus said in: Mark 12:30-31

³⁰ And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

³¹ And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

for this is the whole duty of man... No **man** is exempt in fearing God and keeping His commandments...

Paul said in Romans 12:1

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Verse 14

¹⁴For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

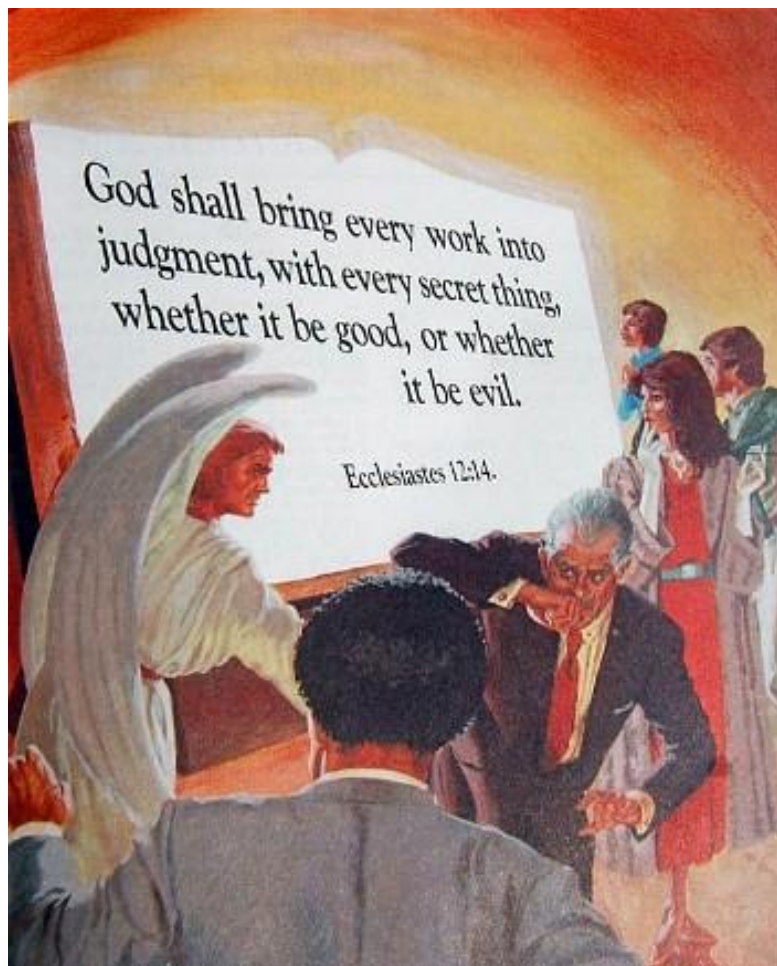
For God shall bring every work into judgment... There is, and will be, and eternal accounting for everything we do. This is the complete opposite of believing that all is vanity or meaningless; it means that everything has meaning and importance, both for the present and for eternity. If God cares as much as this, nothing can be pointless.

1 Corinthians 3:13

¹³Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

Hebrews 6:2

²Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, **and of eternal judgment.**

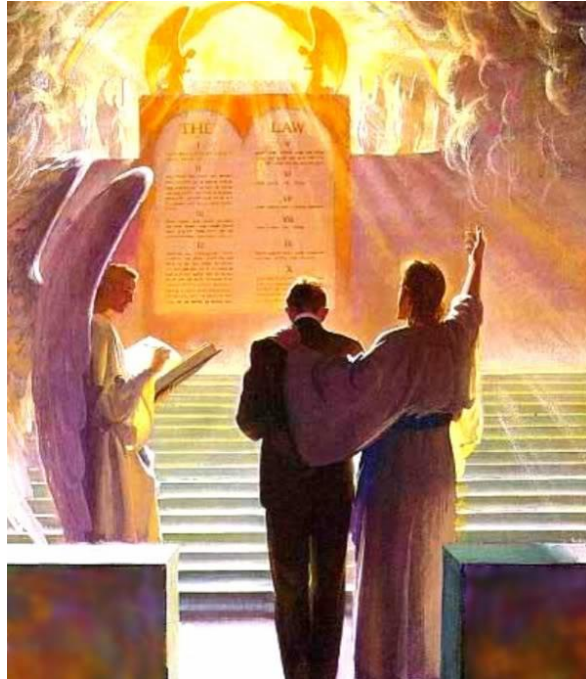


For God shall bring every work into judgment... A most positive statement of the Biblical doctrine of the Eternal Judgment is to be found nowhere else in the **Old Testament.**

Judgement: For the Believer it's The Judgement Seat of Christ:

2 Corinthians 5:10

¹⁰For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.



For the Lost it's The Great White Throne Judgement:



with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil... God is everywhere, and God is watching us!

Proverbs 15:3

³The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.

Matthew 12:36-37

³⁶ But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

³⁷ For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

Psalm 139:7

⁷ Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?

Romans 2:3

³ And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?

Matthew 23:33

³³ Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?

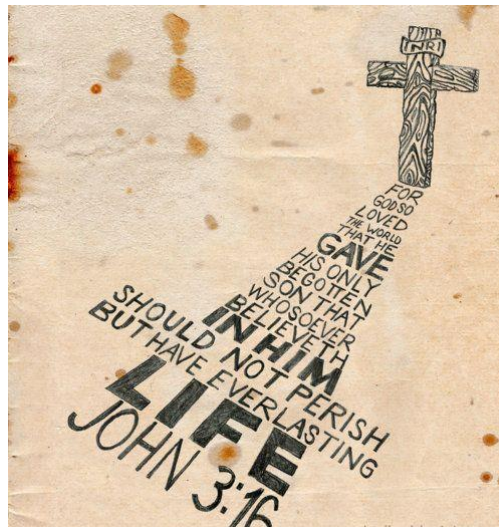
There is a way of escape!

Psalm 145:18

¹⁸ The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.

John 3:16

¹⁶ 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.



Our study of this amazingly powerful chapter of God's Word would not be complete without a summary of the great doctrines of Christianity that are either expressly declared, necessarily implied, or both, in these verses. Here they are:

The Existence and Power of God, God is the Creator, God is the creator of Man, Immortality of the Soul, The Resurrection of the Dead, God is the Shepherd of Israel, The Existence of Moses' Law, God's Commands Available in that Law, That Law a Divine Revelation, Man's Accountability to God, The Eternal Judgment (Heaven and Hell), Rewards and Punishments.

Once again as a Pastor it is a privilege to teach a Book of The Bible! Amen, Amen, Amen!