

## *Where are your priorities?*



## *The Whole Duty of Man*

In last week's lesson, we looked at the wisdom of King Solomon. In the first few chapters of the book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon tells us that everything on Earth is actually meaningless because one day we are going to die. Solomon goes on to say that while we are here on Earth, we should do our best to enjoy the life that God has given to us.

This week, we will continue our study of Solomon's wisdom. Solomon paints a picture for us which will help us gain a new perspective on life. Hopefully, his wisdom causes us all to re-examine our priorities and what is really meaningful and important in life.

## Solomon continues his search for meaning in life...

- Eccl. 4: 1-3
  - Solomon seems to argue that the dead are better off than the living and that those who have not experienced life at all are better than both.
  - His assessment sounds a bit depressing. Do you agree with him? Why or why not?
- Eccl. 4: 4, 6
  - Solomon says that we labor and achieve because we judge ourselves according to what we have in comparison to others around us.
  - He makes the point that having less with peace is better than having more with chaos and confusion.
  - Life Lesson: Could having less actually mean more peace in your life? Having less for more peace is an option.

## Wealth in Perspective

- Eccl. 5: 10-12, 15-16, 19
  - The sleep of a laborer is sweet, but the abundance of a rich man permits him no sleep
  - Naked a man comes from his mother's womb and as he comes, so he departs. He takes nothing from his labor that he can carry in his hand
  - Question for Thought: Why do we spend our lives chasing things that are temporary?
  - The expensive car, the big house, the bank account will all be left behind.
  - It's okay to have nice things, but make sure that you have the peace to enjoy them while you are here on Earth. If chasing wealth takes away your peace, then it's not worth it because material things are temporary and you can't take them with you when you die.

## *Solomon challenges our thinking...*

- Eccl. 7: 1-3, 14, 16-18, 20, 29
  - A sad face is good for the heart. *Sadness causes us to seek God.*
  - When times are good, be happy. *When times are bad, consider that God has made one as well as the other.*
  - Avoid all extremes
  - There are none on Earth who are righteous and never sin. *We all have flaws and shortcomings we need to work on.*
- Eccl. 8: 12-14
  - Sometimes, the righteous get what the wicked deserve and the wicked get what the righteous deserve. *Sometimes, life isn't fair.*
  - Eventhough life isn't fair, things will go better with God-fearing men. In the end, it will be better to have been faithful to God.

Eccl. 8:15

Solomon commends the  
enjoyment of life...

*The best thing that we can do is to  
enjoy the life that we have  
on this Earth...*

## The Conclusion of the Matter

- After Solomon's intense and thorough search for meaning in life, he realizes that **the only thing that is lasting is our relationship with God**. Solomon finds that nothing else truly matters because everything under the sun is temporary.

– Eccl. 12: 13-14

*Fear God and keep His commandments for this is the **whole duty of man**. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil...*

## Applying the Wisdom of Solomon to Our Lives

- Death comes to all. Life is temporary.  
Everything that we deal with in life is temporary.
- Don't take life or its' problems too seriously—it's just an experience and then it's over
- We will all face God in judgment and so we should focus on pleasing Him by the way we live
- Do not spend your life chasing achievements and acquiring things for they are meaningless
- Enjoy your life. Do more of what you enjoy...  
For one day soon, your life on this Earth will be over