LESSONS THIS QUARTER
8) 21 July ................. Ecclesiastes 01-02 .........................Can I Find Meaning?
9) 28 July ................. Ecclesiastes 03-05 .........................Why Do I Feel Empty?
10) 04 August ............ Ecclesiastes 05-06 .........................Am I Headed For Failure?
11) 11 August ............ Ecclesiastes 07-08 .........................Can I Keep On Going?
12) 18 August ............ Ecclesiastes 09-10 .........................Is There Any Hope?
13) 25 August ............ Ecclesiastes 11-12 .........................What is the Answer?

INTRODUCTION
An anonymous tradition says Solomon wrote Song of Songs in his youth to artistically describe love; he wrote Proverbs in his middle years to address living wisely; then he wrote Ecclesiastes in his later years to deal with harsher realities of life.

Ecclesiastes is one of those books where you should read the last passage first to capture the right perspective of the whole book.

We also should be aware that Solomon’s golden years were marked as idolatrous. 1Kings 11:4 says “When Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods; and his heart was not wholly devoted to the LORD his God, as his father David was.” Solomon was wise (he knew what to do), but he was not prudent since he chose to chase earthly pleasures and wealth, or he opted to take the path of least resistance.

In brief, life without knowing and living for God is a waste of time.

Ecclesiastes 09:11 – “That which has been is that which will be…”

1:12-18

Will Pleasure be the Answer?

When Does Everything Mean Everything?

- v14. Pursuing God’s righteousness or other eternal pursuits is outside of the scope of “everything” that man typically pursues, such as wealth and pleasure.
- Solomon pursued knowledge and wisdom and apparently kept good notes.
- v13. [Seeking & finding wisdom] is a grievous task which God gave to the sons of men to be afflicted with
- Since Adam’s fall, work, which was initially a joyful task, can be quit unpleasant, thankless, and a waste.
- ...and, by God’s design, it even takes work and discipline to acquire knowledge and wisdom.
- v18. “…increasing knowledge, increases pain” – IOW, the smarter we get, the less we really know, and the more we know, the more we are held accountable.

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- If something does not have eternal value, then it is burnt up with no heavenly reward to enjoy throughout eternity.

SUPPORTING PASSAGES

Luke 12:15 Then [Jesus] said to them, “Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions.”

John 10:10 I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

NEXT WEEK: Ecclesiastes 3-5. Solomon expresses some good aspects of life such as enjoying the blessings God gives to us while making full use of the limited time and resources we have.