

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

- 1) 06 June 2021..... Job 01-02..... Faith Tested
- 2) 13 June..... Job 03-14..... Hope Defined
- 3) 20 June..... Job 15-21..... Redemption Found
- 4) 27 June..... Job 22-28..... Wisdom Gained
- 5) 04 July..... Job 29-31..... Justice Sought
- 6) 11 July..... Job 32-37..... Power Displayed
- 7) 18 July..... Job 38-42..... Dependence Declared
- 8) 25 July..... Ecclesiastes 01-02..... What's the Use?
- 9) 01 Aug..... Ecclesiastes 03-05..... What Time Is It?
- 10) 08 Aug..... Ecclesiastes 05-06..... Why Listen?**
- 11) 15 Aug..... Ecclesiastes 07-08..... Where is the Balance?
- 12) 22 Aug..... Ecclesiastes 09-10..... Facing Death?
- 13) 29 Aug..... Ecclesiastes 11-12..... What is Life About?

**INTRODUCTION**

- Solomon continues his proverbial approach and gives a lot of 1-liner quips on wise living
- And he comes across as being very cynical – it seems better to be dead than to live a wasted life
- BUT, we have to remember Solomon wrote this from a perspective of a life that is lived without God

Passage	Comments
Ecc 5:8-9	<p><b>Government has a Good Side</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v8. Even in Solomon's day, when Israel was at their peak, there was still corruption within the government</li> <li>• v9. YET, government, which "cultivates (or reaps) from the land" – also benefits the land through establishing food distribution. Other good government practices, which promote commerce and the economy, include:                         <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Protection of the weak (but not care of the weak)</li> <li>2. Fair play, fair treatment, and fair pricing</li> <li>3. Good infrastructure (common roads &amp; networks)</li> </ol> </li> <li>• How should we contend with government corruption and bad laws in our day? – Fight, Flight, or Vote?</li> </ul>
5:10-17	<p><b>Being Poor has a Good Side</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The poor in life do not have these worries:                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ v10. Constantly chasing the next big thing</li> <li>♦ v11. People constantly asking you for money</li> <li>♦ v12a. Restless nights worrying how to keep stuff</li> <li>♦ v12b. Restless nights from eating too much too late</li> <li>♦ v13. Hoarding so much clutter – need more storage</li> <li>♦ v14. Worry about investments going wrong</li> <li>♦ vv15-16. Worry about end of life stuff</li> <li>♦ v17. Health issues derived from worry and anxiety</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
5:18-20	<p><b>Honest Hard Work has a Good Side</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv18-19. A Man's Reward is to enjoy his labor. It is a gift from God. How should we enjoy this gift?                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ In shameless partying with 'wine, women, &amp; song'?</li> <li>♦ In a more restrained fashion taking in beautiful places, visiting loved ones, sharing one's company?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• v20. What is this passage trying to convey?                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ NLT "God keeps such people so busy enjoying life that they take no time to brood over the past"</li> <li>♦ HCSB "He does not consider the days of his life because God keeps him occupied with joy of heart"</li> <li>♦ It does seem that our rough and tumble past is often put on the back burner when we enjoy a good day</li> <li>♦ ...and my wife tells me women often forget their labor pains when they see the product of their labor</li> <li>♦ ...and Jesus endured the cross for the joy that was set before Him (His joy was knowing us who would come to Him through His sacrifice) ..... <b>Hebrews 12:2</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
	<p><b>SO, What is the Purpose of Living If All We Do is Die?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v1. Solomon sees a prevalent EVIL...</li> <li>• vv2-3. This evil seems to be a wasted life</li> <li>• vv4-5. Solomon even says a miscarriage is better than a wasted life</li> <li>• v7. "All a man's labor is for his mouth...." – Compare this with 4:4 "Every labor is a result of rivalry with a neighbor" – on one hand we work to survive, on the other hand we work to keep up a show. One way is a must, the other way is "vanity and striving after wind"                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ What is the purpose of all our labor on earth?                                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Food, Fun, Folly, or a mixture of all?</li> </ul> </li> <li>♦ How can we make our labor count for God's glory?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
6:1-12	<p><b>...and Asking Questions Lead to More Questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solomon asks 34 questions within 222 verses in Eccl. That is a 15% ratio. Chapter 6 consists of 6 questions out of 12 verses for a 50% ratio – and all the questions are asked in the last 7 verses – and all are rhetorical:                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ v6. "Do not all go to the same place?" .....Yep</li> <li>♦ v8a. "What advantage does a wise man have? Nada</li> <li>♦ v8b. "What advantage does a poor man have?" Nada</li> <li>♦ v11. "What is the advantage to a man?" ..... Nada</li> <li>♦ v12a. "Who knows what is good for a man?" .... Nada</li> <li>♦ v12b. "Who can tell what will follow a man?" ..... Nada</li> </ul> </li> <li>• SO, what is the point to all these questions?</li> <li>• Solomon's earthly, materialistic, &amp; atheist perspective of one living without God – This world IS all there IS – "We live, die, and that's it" – Richard Dawkins, atheist</li> </ul>

**CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS**

- **Remember Solomon's Conclusion in Chapter 12.** For a meaningful life we need to remember God in our youth, fear Him, and keep His commandments. Anything else is a waste.
- What should our "advantage" be as a man or woman of God?
- As we live for God and do all things for His glory, then our advantage is we do not need to worry about the events that happen in our lives – for God is in control of every minute and of every event, for He tries us in every moment (**Job 7:18**) to accomplish what is in our best interest, and for His ultimate glory

**NEXT WEEK: Ecclesiastes 7-8.** Twice in chapters 7 and 8 Solomon highlights the disparity of life – the wicked are blessed and the righteous are cursed at times – YET, the righteous can still rejoice because God will work things out for the benefit of the down-trodden

