

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 02 June 2013..... Job 01-02..... Is This Really Happening to Me?
- 2) 09 June..... Job 03-14..... Was It My Fault?
- 3) 16 June..... Job 15-21..... Who Said Life Would Be Fair?
- 4) 23 June..... Job 22-28..... Whom Can I Trust?
- 5) 30 June..... Job 29-31..... What Can I Do Now?
- 6) 07 July..... Job 32-37..... Am I On The Right Path?
- 7) 14 July..... Job 38-42..... What Am I Supposed to Learn?
- 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

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

Passage	Comments
6:1-12	<p>SO What is the Purpose of Living If All We Do is Die?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v1. Solomon sees a prevalent EVIL... • vv2-3. This evil seems to be a wasted life • vv4-5. Solomon even says a miscarriage is better than a wasted life • 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"> ♦ What is the purpose of all our labor on earth? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food, Fun, Folly or a mixture of all? ♦ How can we make our labor count for God’s glory? <p>...and Asking Questions Lead to More Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solomon asks 34 questions within 222 verses in Eccl. That is a 15% ratio. Chap 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"> ♦ v6. “Do not all go to the same place?”Yep ♦ v8a. “What advantage does a wise man have? .Nada ♦ v8b. “What advantage does a poor man have?” Nada ♦ v11. “What is the advantage to a man?”Nada ♦ v12a. “Who knows what is good for a man?”Nada ♦ v12b. “Who can tell what will follow a man?”Nada • SO, what is the point to all these questions? • Solomon’s earthly, materialistic, & atheist perspective of one living without God – This world IS all there IS – “We live, die, and that’s it” – Richard Dawkins, atheist

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

