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 hits us with more harsh realities of life: Time and chance rules; one fate (death) awaits all; one sinner can destroy much good; foolishness is weightier than wisdom; some get hurt and others can die on the job; and money is the answer to everything

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Passage</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ecc 9:1-10</td>
<td>Living In Spite of Death</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| v1. | "...no man knows whether love or hate awaits [the righteous]” (NIV). The NLT translation has an interesting perspective "...no one knows whether God will show them favor"
| vv2-3. | One fate (death) awaits everyone whether they be rich or poor, righteous or wicked – “this is an evil".
| - Again, from Solomon’s earthly perspective where’s God’s justice? From a Heavenly perspective God will meet justice to everyone for every deed after this life
| v5. | "...the dead know nothing...” – Jehovah Witnesses use this verse and a few others like it to justify soul sleep – but they fail to factor in the context. From Solomon’s earthly perspective, the dead are non-contributors to the living. When was the last time you even thought of your great-great-grandparents?
| v6. | "Their love, hate and zeal...have disappeared” – Solomon conveys 2 extremes in life (love & hate) and the zeal that drives the living to live – but upon one’s death, even those attributes mean nothing to the living
| v7. | "...drink wine with a cheerful heart” – Again, consider the context and cultural background of the passage before embracing the consumption of alcohol. Back then, common beverages included water, wine, and goats milk. Wine was a healthier substitute to dirty water, but it still carried a stigma when taken in excess
| v8. | Does this verse convey a party life? NLT says “Wear fine clothes, with a splash of cologne!”
| - If anyone should convey joy in all aspects of life it’s Christians, BUT we need to act appropriately since we are accountable in life for every word, thought, & deed
| v9. | NASB states a man’s reward in life is to enjoy living with the woman he loves, but NASB doesn’t state if it is his wife or girl friend. All other versions specify wife.
| v10. | "...there is no activity or planning or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol” – This is a GREAT passage on what Heaven will be like – For all eternity we will be involved in Activities, in Planning things, and always expanding our Knowledge. There will be no boredom in Heaven
| v11. | Time and chance happens to all. Remember that God works in our lives in a providential way – and only He controls each roll of the dice .......... Proverbs 16:33

NEXT WEEK: Ecclesiastes 11-12. Solomon shares with us his ultimate conclusion of his effort to find life’s true meaning – simply, a life without God is meaningless, vanity of vanities, chasing the wind.

Passage | Comments |
|---------|----------|
| vv13-17. | The moral of the story of the forgotten poor wise man that saved a town from destruction is that the wise accomplish the most good in discreet quiet ways.
| v18. | “Wisdom is better than weapons of war, but one sinner destroys much good.” Example #1 – Wise counsel to Fight, Flight, or Surrender minimizes death. Example #2 – Gossip can ruin a reputation for years

Wisdom and Foolishness
• v1. “Foolishness outweighs wisdom & honor” – Similar to 1 bad apple ruins the whole barrel
• v2. “The heart of the wise inclines to the right, but the heart of the fool to the left” – This euphemism is used in politics to convey conservatism vs. liberalism. Where does Christ sit? On the right hand of God (Col 3:1).
• v4. The Amplified states this “If the temper of the ruler rises up against you, do not leave your place <or show a resisting spirit>; for gentleness and calmness prevent or put a stop to great offenses.” – Similar to “A soft answer turns away wrath” …………………Proverbs 15:1
• vv6-9. Another evil is realized – No Good Deed Goes Unpunished (RLT – Rod’s Lose Translation)
• v10-15. More proverbial words of wisdom – Wise ones are seen as industrious and gracious speakers. Fools are seen as lazy and speaker of idle and harsh words
• vv16-17. More Political Insight – Young leaders can be dangerous as well as greedy/gluttonous politicians who are only there to help themselves – BUT a land will prosper if the politicians are wise and noble
• v18. Laziness is exemplified by avoiding necessary upkeep and “waiting till the roof caves in”
• v19. “Money is the answer to everything” – How true.
• The Message Bible says “money makes the world go around”. Others versions: Money is a defense (AV); protection (NASB); shelter (NIV)
• Over 1000 passages in Scripture deal directly with wealth, 2nd only to Love; Jesus spoke more about money than any other subject – except Love; 2/3s of the Lord’s parables are about Money. Money is talked about more than Heaven or Hell.
• How we handle money is a strong indicator of our level of spiritual maturity - Larry Burkett

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