

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

Passage	Comments
Ecc 9:1-10	<p>Living In Spite of Death</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
	<p>Timing and Providence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

Passage	Comments
10:1-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <p>Wisdom and Foolishness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ 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

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



This new Baptist-approved app will tell us whether or not we can go in