

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 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

Passage	Comments
Ecc 11:1-6	<p>Invest in Life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-2,6. "Cast your bread on many waters" and "Divide your portion to 7 or 8" and "sow your seed in the morning and evening" are good advice to diversify <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Playing it safe is not always a good option ♦ Yet, Christians can have hope in God's providential care – assuming they are obedient and faithful ♦ Right Attitudes & Motives on Money <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meet Needs of Family 1 Tim 5:8 2. Further the Gospel Phil 4:14-18 3. Care for the Poor Pr 19:17; Mat 19:21 4. Give More Pr 21:26b, Acts 20:35 ♦ God's Economy is based on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mat 6:19-34 Seek first the Kingdom of God 2. Mat 25:14-3 Distribution/Investment of Talents 3. John 6:27 Do not work for food that perishes 4. Luke 6:38 Give and it shall be given unto you 5. Pr 13:11 He that gathers by labor shall increase 6. Ecc 5:19 By God's mercy do some become rich ♦ Proper Perspective on Money <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Love of money is the root of all evil 1Tim 6:10 2. It's unscriptural to hoard Ecc 5:10-13; Lk 12:16-21 3. If you don't work, you don't eat 2Thes 3:10 4. Poverty can be a killer Prov 10:15
Seven Things Worth More Than Money	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God's Love: Psalm 63:3 Thy lovingkindness is better than life 2. God's Word: Psalm 119:72 The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver (cf Job 23:12; Ps 119:127) 3. Wisdom: Pr 3:13-15 Happy is the man that finds wisdom, and the man that gets understanding. For [she] is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies (also see Pr 16:16) 4. Friendship: Pr 15:17 Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith 5. Reputation: Pr 22:1 A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favor rather than silver and gold 6. Integrity: Pr 23:23 Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding 7. Christ's Reproach: Heb 11:26 Moses esteemed the reproach of Christ as greater riches than the treasures in Egypt

Passage	Comments
11:7-10	<p>Know the Boundaries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v9. "Follow the impulses of your heart". Fortunately, Solomon stipulates when one follows their "gut instincts" or the lust of their eyes, God will judge. • v10. "Remove grief and anger from your heart and put away pain from your body, for time is short" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ GREAT advice to grow up, act responsibly, stop causing self-inflicted wounds (e.g., drugs, alcohol...)
12:1-8	<p>Remember Your Creator While Young</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a shame so many wastes their youth on partying • These phrases are difficult to interpret, but the overall message is clear: the body is deteriorating over time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ v2. Sun, moon, stars are dark, & clouds everywhere – Probably refers to vision problems of old age ♦ v3a. <i>Keepers of the house trembles</i> – Possibly arms and hands are not as strong as they use to be ♦ v3b. <i>Mighty men stoop</i> – Knees, hips, & back fail ♦ v3c. <i>Grinding ones stand idle</i> – Loss of teeth ♦ v3d. <i>Windows grow dim</i> – Again, vision problems ♦ v4a. <i>Doors are shut</i> – No interest to go anywhere ♦ v4b. <i>Sound of the grinding mill is low</i> – Going deaf ♦ v4c. <i>Arise at the sound of a bird</i> – Can't sleep ♦ v4d. <i>Soft singing</i> – Voice can no longer hold a note ♦ v5a. <i>Fear of heights and terrors</i> – Fear of falling ♦ v5b. <i>Almond tree blossoms</i> – White hair takes over ♦ v5c. <i>Grasshopper drags himself</i> – Need help walking ♦ v5d. <i>Caperberry falls</i> – Sexual desire wanes (caper berries were/are an aphrodisiac) ♦ v6a. <i>Silver Cord and Golden Bowl are Broken</i> – Possible allusion to problems with the Brain (memory loss) and Nervous system (shakes) ♦ v6b. <i>Pitcher by the well shattered and the wheel at the cistern is crushed</i> – Matthew Poole commentary speculates problems with the heart/blood circulation
12:9-14	<p>Revere and Obey God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v11. The words of the wise man are ...given by one Shepherd (Veiled reference of God providing wisdom) • v12. "Writing of many books is endless (Amplified says "Don't believe everything you read"), and much study is weariness to the body" – Again, extreme behaviors can be detrimental to one's mental and physical health • vv13-14. CONCLUSION → Fear God, obey His word, for God will judge every word, thought, and deed

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- When all is said and done, we realize more is said, than done!
- While we still have breadth let's serve God with vitality

