

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

Passage	Comments
11:7-10	<p><b>Know the Boundaries</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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"> <li>♦ GREAT advice to grow up, act responsibly, stop causing self-inflicted wounds (e.g., drugs, alcohol...)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
12:1-8	<p><b>Remember Your Creator While Young</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a shame so many wastes their youth on partying</li> <li>• These phrases are difficult to interpret, but the overall message is clear: the body is deteriorating over time                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ v2. Sun, moon, stars are dark, &amp; clouds everywhere – Probably refers to vision problems of old age</li> <li>♦ v3a. <i>Keepers of the house trembles</i> – Possibly arms and hands are not as strong as they use to be</li> <li>♦ v3b. <i>Mighty men stoop</i> – Knees, hips, &amp; back fail</li> <li>♦ v3c. <i>Grinding ones stand idle</i> – Loss of teeth</li> <li>♦ v3d. <i>Windows grow dim</i> – Again, vision problems</li> <li>♦ v4a. <i>Doors are shut</i> – No interest to go anywhere</li> <li>♦ v4b. <i>Sound of the grinding mill is low</i> – Going deaf</li> <li>♦ v4c. <i>Arise at the sound of a bird</i> – Can't sleep</li> <li>♦ v4d. <i>Soft singing</i> – Voice can no longer hold a note</li> <li>♦ v5a. <i>Fear of heights and terrors</i> – Fear of falling</li> <li>♦ v5b. <i>Almond tree blossoms</i> – White hair takes over</li> <li>♦ v5c. <i>Grasshopper drags himself</i> – Need help walking</li> <li>♦ v5d. <i>Caperberry falls</i> – Sexual desire wanes (caper berries were/are an aphrodisiac)</li> <li>♦ v6a. <i>Silver Cord and Golden Bowl are Broken</i> – Possible allusion to problems with the Brain (memory loss) and Nervous system (shakes)</li> <li>♦ 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</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
12:9-14	<p><b>Revere and Obey God</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v11. The words of the wise man are ...given by one Shepherd (Veiled reference of God providing wisdom)</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• vv13-14. <b>CONCLUSION</b> → Fear God, obey His word, for God will judge every word, thought, and deed</li> </ul>

**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

