

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 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 <ol 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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. John 6:27 Do not work for food that perishes 2. Mat 6:19-34 Seek first the Kingdom of God 3. Mat 25:14-3 ... Distribution/Investment of Talents 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 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Love of money is the root of all evil... 1 Tim 6:10 2. Unscriptural to hoard. Ecc 5:10-13; Lk 12:16-21 3. If you don’t work, you don’t eat..... 2 Thes 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’s a shame so many waste 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 fails</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

