

Welcome To Sunday Night Bible Fellowship

Every word inspired.



Every word proclaimed.

“We proclaim Him, warning every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man mature in Christ.” Col 1:28

“Righteousness”

Eccl. 7:15-22

June 28, 2020

Ecc1 7:15-22

- 15 I have seen everything during my lifetime of futility; there is a righteous man who perishes in his righteousness and there is a wicked man who prolongs his life in his wickedness.
- 16 Do not be excessively righteous and do not be overly wise. Why should you ruin yourself?
- 17 Do not be excessively wicked and do not be a fool. Why should you die before your time?
- 18 It is good that you grasp one thing and also not let go of the other; for the one who fears God comes forth with both of them.
- 19 Wisdom strengthens a wise man more than ten rulers who are in a city.
- 20 Indeed, there is not a righteous man on earth who continually does good and who never sins.
- 21 Also, do not take seriously all words which are spoken, so that you will not hear your servant cursing you.
- 22 For you also have realized that you likewise have many times cursed others.

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Eccl 7:14

14 In the day of prosperity be happy,
But in the day of adversity consider —
God has made the one as well as the other

So that man will not discover anything that will be after him.

- That means we can't figure out the future of our lives.
- No one knows how long they will live.
- Solomon says in his lifetime he has seen just about every situation that can occur. Some of the situations he had seen seemed to have no explanation. Why do some righteous people die young and some wicked people live long lives.

Ex 20:12

12 "Honor your father and your mother, **that your days may be prolonged** in the land which the Lord your God gives you.

- But blessing in life in the O.T. for living a righteous life was only a general rule of thumb, not an absolute.
- There were people in Israel who lived righteous lives and died young and there were people who lived wicked lives and lived long.
- Jesus died at 33, King Herod was 69. James Boice, a godly Bible teacher, died at 61, Hugh Hefner was 91.

Job 21:7-13

7 "Why do the wicked still live,
Continue on, also become very powerful?

8 "Their descendants are established with them in their sight,
And their offspring before their eyes,

9 Their houses are safe from fear,
And the rod of God is not on them.

10 "His ox mates without fail;
His cow calves and does not abort.

11 "They send forth their little ones like the flock,
And their children skip about.

12 "They sing to the timbrel and harp
And rejoice at the sound of the flute.

13 "They spend their days in prosperity,
And suddenly they go down to Sheol.

Ps 73:2-9,16,17

2 But as for me, my feet came close to stumbling, My steps had almost slipped.

3 For I was envious of the arrogant As I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

4 For there are no pains in their death, And their body is fat.

5 They are not in trouble as other men, Nor are they plagued like mankind.

6 Therefore pride is their necklace; The garment of violence covers them.

7 Their eye bulges from fatness; The imaginations of their heart run riot.

8 They mock and wickedly speak of oppression; They speak from on high.

9 They have set their mouth against the heavens, And their tongue parades through the earth.

16 When I pondered to understand this,

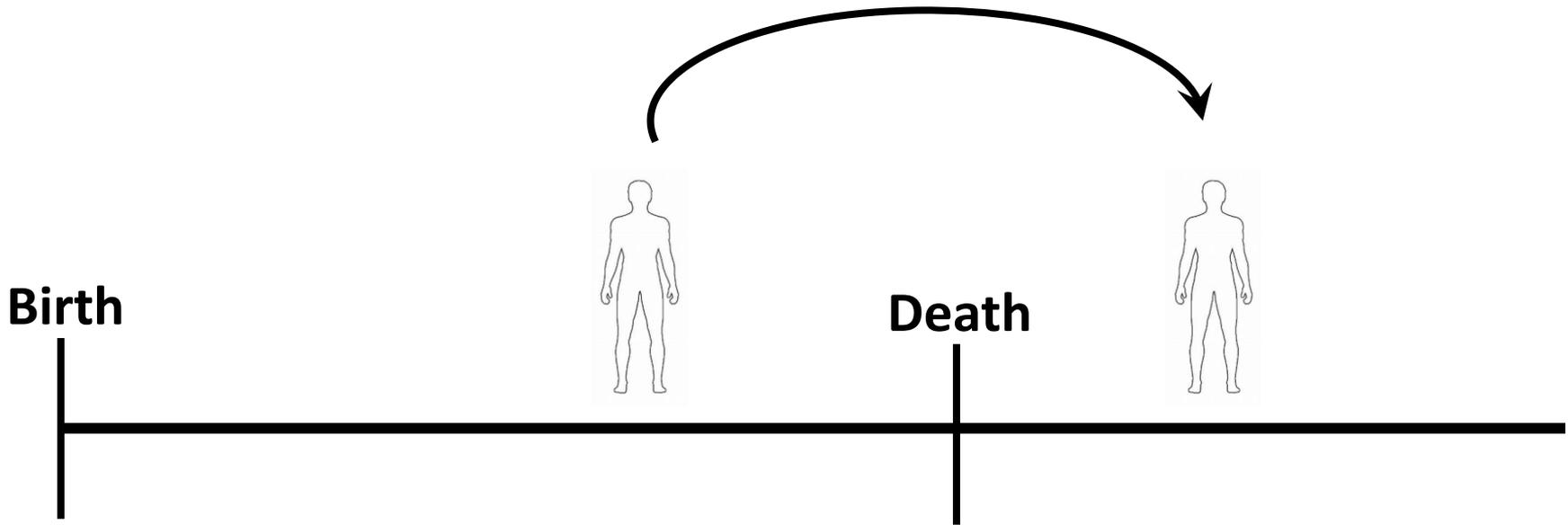
It was troublesome in my sight

17 Until I came into the sanctuary of God;

Then I perceived their end.

- So you can't figure out what is coming next in your life and that forces you have to learn how to live in faithful dependence upon God.
- Bottom line is we can't manipulate the plan of God. He has a plan for our lives and we are going to go through that plan and it's how we respond to Him that matters.
- Some righteous people die in spite of their righteousness, and some wicked people live long lives in spite of their wickedness.

Move from this life to the next.
Move from this world to the next.



- God has a purpose for every person's life: when, where, and how.
- God has a purpose for every person's death: when, where, and how.

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20 Indeed, there is not a righteous man on earth who continually does good and who never sins.

21 Also, do not take seriously all words which are spoken, so that you will not hear your servant cursing you.

22 For you also have realized that you likewise have many times cursed others.

16 Do not be excessively righteous and do not be overly wise. Why should you ruin yourself?

- This is not the “Golden Mean.” Solomon is not saying, “Don't be too holy and don't be too wicked. Just be each in moderation.”
- “be” - reflexive verbs – what you do to yourself. You can't make yourself righteous & wise.

Prov 3:7

7 Do not be wise in your own eyes;
Fear the Lord and turn away from evil.

1 Cor 1:30

30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us **wisdom** from God, and **righteousness** and sanctification, and redemption.

- God is the One who gives you wisdom and righteousness.

Jesus told the disciples to avoid the self-made righteousness of the Pharisees –

- Making long prayers on the city streets (Matt. 6:5-8; 23:14)
- Wearing gloomy faces (Matt. 6:16-18).
- Throwing bags of coins in the collection barrel to be seen and heard (Luke 21:1).
- Bragging about how good they were, even in their prayers (Luke 18:10-19).
- Wearing elaborate garments and seeking prominent seats in meetings to demonstrate their religious importance (Matt. 23:5-7).
- Loving high titles (Matt. 23:7).
- Making a show of tithing even the spices from their vegetable gardens (Matt. 23:23-24).

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- “be” - reflexive verbs – what you do to yourself. You can't make yourself righteous & wise.
- Solomon is saying, “Don't think your self-made righteousness or your self-made wisdom, will allow you to manipulate God to get what you want – a long life.” To try to manipulate God by being excessively righteous and overly wise is a waste of time.

“ruined” - שָׁמָּם - shaw-mame - to be stunned, astonished, dismayed, disappointed.

- In other words why should you ruin yourself with dismay and disappointment by living an excessively self-righteous or overly wise life and then die young?
- You should not depend on your righteousness or wisdom to guarantee God's blessing.

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- Again this is not saying be wicked just don't be excessively wicked.
- There are people who think like that.

These are people who want to moderately sin -

- Don't drink heavily, just enough to get under the influence.
- Don't use heavy drugs, use only the milder drugs.
- Curse only when needed to make a strong point.
- Gamble to a specific limit and quit.
- Cheat as long as it doesn't do serious harm.
- Commit adultery only with a consenting adult.
- Lie only to help someone out of trouble.

**** Jesus challenged His followers to take the narrow road, not to walk in the middle of the road.**

17 Do not be excessively wicked and do not be a fool. Why should you die before your time?

- Again this is not saying be wicked just don't be excessively wicked.
- There are people who think like that.
- God does not accept a little sin in our lives -

Matt 5:48

48 "Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

- Generally, if you live an excessively wicked lifestyle you will die prematurely.
- If we choose to disregard God's Word and play the fool we may die before our time. Here are some examples -

Gen 38:6-10

6 Now Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn, and her name was Tamar.

7 But Er, Judah's firstborn, was evil in the sight of the Lord, so the Lord took his life.

8 Then Judah said to Onan, "Go in to your brother's wife, and perform your duty as a brother-in-law to her, and raise up offspring for your brother."

9 Onan knew that the offspring would not be his; so when he went in to his brother's wife, he wasted his seed on the ground in order not to give offspring to his brother.

10 But what he did was displeasing in the sight of the Lord; so He took his life.

Ps 55:23

23 But You, O God, will bring them down to the pit of destruction; Men of bloodshed and deceit will not live out half their days.

1 Sam 25:36-38

36 Then Abigail came to Nabal, and behold, he was holding a feast in his house, like the feast of a king. And Nabal's heart was merry within him, for he was very drunk; so she did not tell him anything at all until the morning light.

37 But in the morning, when the wine had gone out of Nabal, his wife told him these things, and his heart died within him so that he became as a stone.

38 About ten days later, the Lord struck Nabal and he died.

Acts 5:5,10

5 And as he heard these words, Ananias fell down and breathed his last;

10 And immediately she fell at his feet and breathed her last,

Acts 12:22-23

22 The people kept crying out, "The voice of a god and not of a man!"

23 And immediately an angel of the Lord struck him because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and died.

1 Cor 11:29-31

29 For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly.

30 For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep.

31 But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged.

James 5:19-20

19 My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back,

20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

1 John 5:16

16 If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask and God will for him give life to those who commit sin not leading to death. There is a sin leading to death;

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- What do we do then about righteousness and wisdom, wickedness and foolishness?
- The “one thing” that you are to grasp is true **righteousness and wisdom** (16).
- The “other thing” that you are not to let go of, is overcoming **wickedness and foolishness** (17).
- Neither righteousness nor wisdom can guarantee a long life.
- But they are both of great benefit. Grasp them both.
- Notice: Both righteousness and wisdom and overcoming wickedness and foolishness are achieved through the fear of God.
- The one who fears God does not have to make a display of his righteousness nor his wisdom.

“The proper fear of God will prevent a person from trusting in righteousness and wisdom alone for his security, and it will also prevent indulgence in wickedness and folly.”

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Prov 24:5

5 A wise man is strong,

And a man of knowledge increases power.

- Power from within is needed more than advice from without.

“A moment's insight is sometimes worth a
lifetime of experience.”

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5 A wise man is strong,

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- Power from within is needed more than advice from without.
- Wisdom comes from God's Word.

It's been said that a man with a Bible could stay in a cave for a year, and at the end of that time, he could know from his reading what everybody else in the world was doing.

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- This is the basis of the gospel and becoming righteous before God.
- How do you know God exists and the Bible is true?
 1. **Creation** of the universe
 2. **Condition** of man's heart.
 3. **Confirmation** of a worldwide flood.
- No person is completely good. All people are sinners. All people are lost and condemned. The only hope for humans lies not in human understanding or human efforts, but in God.

Ps 14:3

3 They have all turned aside, together they have become corrupt;
There is no one who does good, not even one.

Isa 53:6

6 All of us like sheep have gone astray,
Each of us has turned to his own way;

Rom 3:23

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Rom 3:10-12

"THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;

11 THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS,

THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;

12 ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME
USELESS;

THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD,

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- Enoch, Noah, Job, Joseph were said to be righteous.
- Paul called himself the "least of the apostles", "least of all Christians", and finally Paul said he was "the chief of sinners." The older he got, the more he saw of God's holiness, the lower he became in his own estimation. But this is what made Paul humble and therefore strong and wise.

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- Solomon says, “let me give you a simple illustration of our sinfulness.”
- A servant is heard cursing you – cursing is a sin, gossiping is a sin.
- “Great minds talk about ideas; mediocre minds talk about things; small minds talk about other people.”
- “O be careful little ears what you hear
O be careful little ears what you hear
For the Father up above
Is looking down in love
So, be careful little ears what you hear.”

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- We would not want to be judged by our worst moments; we should not judge others by theirs.
- If you think you are perfect, just ask those closest to you if you are.
- As Jesus would say, “He who is without sin, cast the first stone.”
- **Solomon is saying 5 things in application to us:**
 1. Do not listen to the gossip others say about you, because you know in your heart you have said unkind things about others as well.
 2. Recognize the truth that you are a sinner.
 3. Be patient toward the sin of others.
 4. Don't be a hypocrite by holding a standard for someone else that you do not follow.
 5. Therefore the righteous man who dies young in verse 15 is not perfect, and is still a sinner deserving of death whether he is young or old.