



Ecclesiastes

Teacher: Ruth Christian

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Lesson 17 Study Notes – Ecclesiastes 9: 1-12

Pray

Review – The last lesson we ended Solomon’s reexamination of the “vanity of wisdom” (1: 12-18). Instead of rejecting wisdom, the king concluded that wisdom is important to the person who wants to get the most out of life. While wisdom can’t explain every mystery or solve every problem, it can help us exercise discernment in our decisions. Yes, there is a time and a way for every matter of life (8:6), and the wise person knows what to do at just the right time.

Reflect

1. In today’s verses, Solomon again deals with the subject of death. The person who treats death lightly may fear death the most. If we take life seriously... and we should... then we can’t treat death flippantly. Death is unavoidable. Read **verses 1-6**. What did he consider in his heart and declare it all?
2. Remember, he is giving an “under the sun” premise that excludes what?
3. Solomon seems to measure love how? Believers should measure love how?
4. What is the “evil in all that is done under the sun” ... the “one event that happens to the righteous and the wicked”? Does he like this? Does it seem fair to him?
5. Solomon allows his thoughts of God’s sovereign power (in the hand of God) to develop into fatalism (all things come alike to all). In **verse 6**, from his under the sun perspective, all existence and consciousness ends with death. So then, the only thing that matters is what?
6. Read **verses 7-10**. In light of Solomon’s under the sun view of life and death (**verses 1-6**), what does he tell us to do? (Hint: the recurring theme/general conclusion.)
7. Read **verses 11-12**. What makes life under the sun hard to understand?

8. Solomon struggles in his thinking about life, in a *contradictory* way. He previously proclaimed *what* in Ecc. 7:13 and Ecc. 9: 1... but now wonders if all of life doesn't happen according to *what*?

Respond

1. What might the theme of **verses 1-10** be? Death is _____.
2. Review **Ecc. 9: 2**. If this is true, why bother to live a godly life? What is Solomon's greater point?
3. Read **Romans 6:23; John 11: 25-26; 1 Thess. 4: 13-18; and 1 Cor. 15: 51-58**. How do these verses give believers confidence about the future? What do these verses tell u about the nonbeliever?
4. Why does death (of a family member, friend, coworker, etc.) reveal truth about the living? How did Solomon address this? Why are we as a culture so obsessed with death? What does this say about the role of faith in our nation?