



Ecclesiastes

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Lesson 10 Study Notes – Ecclesiastes 4:9-16

Pray

Review – Previously in this chapter, Solomon has looked at the life of the industrious man (v4), the idle man (5-6), the integrated man who has the balanced life (6), and the independent man. In the lesson today, in light of the independent man, Solomon considers the importance of friendship and the value of a people doing things together.

Reflect

1. Read **Eccl 4:1-8** for review.

2. Read **Eccl 4:9-12**. These verses show us the great value of human relationships, that two are better than one. Living together and working together is a great advantage to living and working alone, and adds what 4 things to life:

- A.
- B.
- C.
- D.

3. Solomon does an unexpected thing. Instead of ending this section with a praise of the strength of a *twofold cord*, what does he say? It is commonly understood that the “three cord” is whom? How does this “third cord” help?

3. Read **verses 13-16**. From the Preacher’s “under the sun” perspective, he looks at the vanity of what?

4. In verse 16, what is vanity and grasping for wind?

5. No matter where Solomon went, no matter what aspect of life he studied, he learned an important lesson from the Lord. When he looked up, he saw that God was in control of life and balanced its varied experiences. (**Read Eccl. 3:1-8**).

- a. When he looked within, what did he find (**Eccl. 3:9-14**)?
- b. When he looked around (**chapter 4**), what did he understand?
- c. When he looked ahead, what did he see? (He will spend much time considering this!)

Respond

1. If this chapter teaches us anything, it is that we need one another because “two are better than one”. And the chapter also emphasizes balance in life. It’s good to have the things that money can buy, provided you don’t lose the things that money can’t buy. What is it really costing you in terms of life to get the things that are important to you? Would you consider your life balanced?

2. *Read Jesus’ words in **Mark 8:36-37**.* How much of the permanent (eternal) are you sacrificing to get your hands on the temporary? Is it worth it?