



Ecclesiastes

Teacher: Ruth Christian

©Naomi's Table 2015

Lesson 8 Study Notes – Ecclesiastes 3:12-22

Pray

Review – In the last lesson, we saw that Solomon repeated the opening question of the book... does **our labor profit anything**? The difference is now he is trying to answer it from the perspective of God and eternity. He has **already found 2 answers**. From **verse 10**, yes, because life is from God... as are the God-given tasks that go with it... so **man's life is a gift from God**. And, secondly, yes, it does profit us, in that **man's life is linked to eternity**. He has "eternity in his heart" and is linked to heaven. This explains why nobody (including Solomon) can be satisfied with his or her endeavors and achievements... nor is a person able to explain the enigmas of life (1:12-2:11). God accomplishes His purposes in His time, but it will not be until we enter eternity that we will begin to comprehend His total plan.

Reflect

1. *Read chapter 3.* Today, we find Solomon's 3rd answer to the question, **what profit has the worker from that in which he labors** (3:9)? In light of the fact that God makes everything beautiful in His time and He puts eternity in our hearts, what else do you learn in verses 12 & 13 that further answers his question?
2. In verse 14, the Preacher again considers what God does. List the 3 different aspects of what God does.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
3. What does God require an account of?
4. Because God judges the heart and deeds of man, then everything has meaning. In verse 16, even though Solomon knows this, from a under the sun perspective, we don't always see what? What seems to be in its place?
5. Because the wicked seem to prosper and the righteous often suffer, Solomon had a question in his heart that you may have asked lately. What is that question?
6. But what conclusion does he come to in verse 17 that gave him assurance in his heart?
7. *Read verses 18-22.* In the experiences of life, God is doing what?

8. After briefly flirting with a confidence in eternity (Ecclesiastes 3:9-15), the Preacher has returned to his under the sun thinking. What did Solomon perceive due to faulty “under the sun” assumptions?

Respond

1. In ending this study today, what do you take away from this lesson? Does it make a difference in life when you see the inconsistencies and absurdities of life in light of God and eternity?

2. What does Paul tell us in Phil. 4:11? Could those be your words right now? If your answer is yes, go to our Father in heaven now, and thank Him and praise Him. If your answer is no, go to God in prayer, and tell him you want to be content. Ask Him to search your heart and reveal what sin, wrong thinking or lack of faith is keeping you from experiencing His peace.