

Ecclesiastes

“The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem”

I. Review: The Second Conclusion. (5:18-20)

Ecc 5:18-20 ESV

(18) Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting is to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of his life that God has given him, for this is his lot.

(19) Everyone also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and rejoice in his toil--this is the gift of God.

(20) For he will not much remember the days of his life because God keeps him occupied with joy in his heart.

- A. Good and beautiful. (See 3:11)
- B. God gives the ability to experience joy as a gift.
- C. Life is to be lived by faith.

1Ti 6:6-12 ESV

(6) Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment,

(7) for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world.

(8) But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.

(9) But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.

(10) For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

(11) But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness.

(12) Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

II. “The destiny of the wicked is certain.” (Eccl. 6:1- 8:15)

- A. The third conclusion. (Eccl. 8:15-17)

Ecc 8:15-17 ESV

(15) And I commend joy, for man has no good thing under the sun but to eat and drink and be joyful, for this will go with him in his toil through the days of his life that God has given him under the sun.

(16) When I applied my heart to know wisdom, and to see the business that is done on earth, how neither day nor night do one's eyes see sleep,

(17) then I saw all the work of God, that man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun. However much man may toil in seeking, he will not find it out. Even though a wise man claims to know, he cannot find it out.

I. Continues with the dual admonitions to fear God and enjoy His gifts.

II. Expansion of Solomon's thought: It is impossible to figure out what God is

doing under the sun.

- B. *Discerning Good, Better, and Best.* (Eccl. 6:1-7:12)
1. *Evil burden.* (Eccl. 1:13) *God's curse at the fall.*

Ecc 6:1-2 ESV

(1) *There is an evil that I have seen under the sun, and it lies heavy on mankind:*
(2) *a man to whom God gives wealth, possessions, and honor, so that he lacks nothing of all that he desires, yet God does not give him power to enjoy them, but a stranger enjoys them. This is vanity; it is a grievous evil.*

2. *For the man who has everything or Why do the wicked prosper?*

(1) *God has NOT empowered him to eat.*

(2) *A stranger enjoys them. (See Eccl. 2:26*) [Ecc 2:26 ESV](#)*

(26) *For to the one who pleases him God has given wisdom and knowledge and joy, but to the sinner he has given the business of gathering and collecting, only to give to one who pleases God. This also is vanity and a striving after wind.*

c. *Psalm 73**

3. *Two illustrations.* (Eccl. 6:3-6) [Ecc 6:3-6 ESV](#)

(3) *If a man fathers a hundred children and lives many years, so that the days of his years are many, but his soul is not satisfied with life's good things, and he also has no burial, I say that a stillborn child is better off than he.*

(4) *For it comes in vanity and goes in darkness, and in darkness its name is covered.*

(5) *Moreover, it has not seen the sun or known anything, yet it finds rest rather than he.*

(6) *Even though he should live a thousand years twice over, yet enjoy no good--do not all go to the one place?*

a. *Man with long life and many children.*

1) *His soul gains no satisfaction from good things.*

2) *No proper burial, i.e., no respect or honor from his children.*

3) *Better to never to be born than to be this man. (See 4:2-3*)* b. *The man who lives two-thousand years.*

1) *Does not 'see' the good: Discerning the point or purpose of it all.*

2) *All die. (See 3:19-21)*

4. *Human insatiability* (Eccl. 6:7-9), *a series of proverbs.*

a. (6:7) *All a man's labor is for his self-preservation (soul) yet no satisfaction.*

b. (6:8) *Two questions, same answer*

c. (6:9) *Better what the eye sees than the roving of the appetite.*

5. *God has ordained this state of affairs* (Eccl. 6:10-12)

- a. (6:10) *There is nothing new under the sun.*
(See 1:9) b. *Man's nature is known.*

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- c. *Man cannot contend with God.*
- d. (6:11) *Foolish speech.*
- 6. (6:12) *The true path of wisdom.*
 - a. *Acknowledge one's limitations*
 - b. *Fear God*
 - c. *Be content with the gifts that God gives us.*

“Use and enjoy the things of this world but love God alone.” - Augustine of Hippo

Ecc 7:1-12 ESV

- (1) *A good name is better than precious ointment, and the day of death than the day of birth.*
- (2) *It is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting, for this is the end of all mankind, and the living will lay it to heart.*
- (3) *Sorrow is better than laughter, for by sadness of face the heart is made glad.*
- (4) *The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.*
- (5) *It is better for a man to hear the rebuke of the wise than to hear the song of fools.*
- (6) *For as the crackling of thorns under a pot, so is the laughter of the fools; this also is vanity.*
- (7) *Surely oppression drives the wise into madness, and a bribe corrupts the heart.*
- (8) *Better is the end of a thing than its beginning, and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.*
- (9) *Be not quick in your spirit to become angry, for anger lodges in the bosom of fools.*
- (10) *Say not, "Why were the former days better than these?" For it is not from wisdom that you ask this.*
- (11) *Wisdom is good with an inheritance, an advantage to those who see the sun.*
- (12) *For the protection of wisdom is like the protection of money, and the advantage of knowledge is that wisdom preserves the life of him who has it.*

