

## **Better To Be Wise (Ecclesiastes 8:1-17; 9:13-10:20)**

*Living 101 Series*

Discussion Questions

- **Share something that happened to you recently that was random, unfair, or just inexplicable.**
- **The speaker said that we tend to blame God or blame other people for tragedy or injustice. Is that true of you? Do you tend toward one or the other (blaming God or blaming people)?**
  - What situations cause you to question God's presence or goodness?
- **What does the way we explain and respond to tragedy, difficulty or injustice reveal to us about our faith, our worldview?**
- **Read Ecclesiastes 1:1-2; 12:8-9.**
  - Why is it significant that the "Preacher" begins and ends with "Vanity of vanities! All is vanity?"
  - The term "vanity" is a translation of the Hebrew word hebel. What is hebel?
- **Read Ecclesiastes 2:1-11.**
  - What things has the Preacher invested in only to learn they are hebel?
- **Read Ecclesiastes 8:14; 2:14-15; 18-21.**
  - What worthy commendable characteristics turn out to be hebel? Why?
- **Read Ecclesiastes 10:12, 15.**
  - What does the Preacher say about fools? Who is a fool?
- **How does it change the focus of our faith if/when we recognize that things of this world, things "under the sun" are hebel?**
  - Read Colossians 3:2-4. How does Paul's challenge to the Colossians reflect the wisdom of the Preacher in Ecclesiastes?
- **What does it mean to be wise? Why is it better to be wise than to be foolish, even though under the sun the same things happen to both?**
- **Wise people recognize that they are children of the Father and people sent by their Savior. Discuss how trusting these truths enables us to have rest and purpose in a world where "Hebel of hebel! All is Hebel."**