

Ecclesiastes 10-12 –10 August 2023

“While There’s Time”

Introduction

- *Solomon spent the later stage of his life apart from God seeking satisfaction “under the sun”
- *His lust for money & women separated him from the God of satisfaction (I King 11:4)
- *In chap 1-2, he expressed the futility of this life
- *Chap 3-5 saw this life will never meet our expectation
- *Chap 6-7 we were challenged to choose our disposition in life based on life’s futility
- *In Chap 8-9 Solomon began giving some advice that translates not just for this life, but for eternity
- *Now concluding the book, we continue to glean things from Solomon that are valuable for now & then
- *Today we’ll get 3 beneficial ways to live under the sun...while there’s time**

#1 – While there's time, be productive not lazy (Chap 10)

Read Chap 10:1

1. Just a little foolishness can ruin a wise man
2. Read I Cor 13:11

Read Vs 2-3

1. A fool isn't ready to dispense wisdom and doesn't know how to apply it to everyday life

Read Vs 4

1. If your boss has something against you, don't quit your job and run away, but work thru it

Read Vs 5-7

1. In this world, the wise don't always rule and the foolish can be set up to rule

Read Vs 8-9

1. The one who's set on mischief will end up himself in trouble b/c of it (Cause & Effect universe)

Read Vs 10

1. Work smarter not harder – hard for the foolish
2. They can't think beyond the moment of need

Read Vs 11

1. The babbler will bite too (Read Prov 26:16)

Read Vs 12-14

1. Listening to the wise can only impart good things to you, but listening to fools will punish you

Read Vs 15

1. The fool doesn't want to go to work
2. The foolish often work really hard at being lazy

Read Vs 16-17

1. You want a student for a king & princes that aren't lazy

Read Vs 18

1. Even what you already have will be eaten away by laziness

Read Vs 19

1. A great party can make people happy but money always fixes things – not true
 - a. Can't buy me love ...or forgiveness

Read Vs 20

1. Thus where expression, “A little birdy told me”
2. Things said in confidence have a way of getting out, better to just not say it (secret is temporary)

#2 – While there's time, spend it benefiting others (Chap 11)

Read Chap 11:1-2

1. Cease the day, take a chance and live a little
2. Make friends with your money and resources and it may just come back to you when you need it

Read Vs 3-4

1. There is cause & effect & we don't know when certain process will rear up to hinder or help us

Read Vs 5

1. Certain aspects of God's created universe just defy human explanation

Read Vs 6

1. His advice is to try many forms of work b/c we don't know which, if any, will work out

Read Vs 7-8

1. Remember to enjoy the good days, in light of the fact that they're not all good
2. If you expect bad days, then we'll appreciate the good ones that much more

Read Vs 9

1. This is simply poor advice

Read Vs 10

1. Wisdom is wasted on the old and youth is wasted on the young
2. So the only advice is learn quickly to fear God

#3 – While there's time, study the right things (Chap 12)

Read Chap 12:1-2

1. Make the most of youth while there is strength and vigor, before the dark days of old age set in
2. Now the next 5 verses describe the difficulties that come

Read Vs 3

1. Hands start to tremble for weakness
2. Legs and knees begin to sag in weakness
3. Loss your grinders or teeth
4. The eyes or windows grow dim

Read Vs 4

1. Ears become hard to hear with
2. Stirs at even a bird chirping w/ lack of sleep
3. Music is even less appreciated

Read Vs 5

1. You become more fearful with life in general
2. Your hair goes gray as an almond tree

3. Too weak to deal with a grasshopper
4. Your desires subside

Read Vs 6-7

1. More variety of metaphors regarding end of life
2. Solomon sees our spirit returning to God as an end, but it can be only the beginning

Read Vs 8

1. So Solomon ends the way he began in chap 1

Read Vs 9-10

1. So he sought to use his wisdom to teach others

Read Vs 11-12

1. Studying books by wise authors will spur you on, but also many fools write books by other shepherds

Read Vs 13-14

1. After a stunning look at vanity of living under the sun, the conclusion is to live in light of God
 - a. Read Micah 6:8

2. I pray that we go from this place living from the divine perspective, always living in light of God's presence and purpose

Conclusion

Solomon advises that there are beneficial ways to live here while under the sun

1. **Be productive not lazy**
2. **Spend our time benefiting others**
3. **Study the right things**

So what if we do all these things, greatly benefiting ourselves and our friends, but loss our own soul

It profits us nothing – Only the study of Jesus will lead to eternal benefits and everlasting life!

When you study Jesus, you find that Solomon wasn't just another person

He was blessed to lead the promised kingdom that would bless all the people of the earth

We need to look deeper than just this world to see our purposes in Christ Jesus

So, “while there's time”, get to know Jesus!!!