

Ecclesiastes 8-9 –3 August 2023

“Advice That Translates For Time & Eternity”

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 (Read 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
- *As he sought for something worthy of his attention, he recorded many principles by which to live
 - *Mostly these principles are valid (repeated in NT)
 - *But in nearly every case, he stops short, only applying them to this life without a view of eternity
- *Today we’ll get some advice that applies not only to this life, but that translates easily to eternal life**

#1 – Submit to the king (Chap 8:1-9)

Read Chap 8:1

1. One's wisdom makes him a source of blessing to others around him (Num 6:25, Stephen)

Read Vs 2

1. Hearin is wisdom, to obey those in authority over you (the king) whom God placed there
2. Read Rom 13:1-2

Read Vs 3-4

1. The govt bears not the sword in vain, they've been given by God that authority & responsibility
 - a. Read Rom 13:3-4
2. We ultimately stand before the true king Jesus
 - a. Don't desire to leave His presence, but grow there

Read Vs 5-7

1. Wisdom is to make the right decision and to act at the right time
2. Although miserable in the meantime, no ultimate harm comes to those acting in wisdom
3. Like vs 7 – don't know when judgement will come, but it will

Read Vs 8-9

1. Being sinful & wicked doesn't & can't give you power or control over life & death
 - a. That's what we're after subconsciously right?
 - b. Submission to King Jesus DOES give us power over death!
2. Mischief in the ruler is counterproductive
 - a. When a leader fleeces the flock instead of feeding the flock, then the people rebel instead of rejoice

#2 – Live in light of judgement (Chap 8:10-14)

Read Chap 8:10-13

1. There are wicked that come to church regularly & think that they're sin is acceptable b/c they see no judgement coming to them
2. Don't mistake patience of God for acceptance
 - a. Read II Pet 3:15: He wants more people to come to salvation

Read Vs 14

1. This is true that the results of one's effort don't always get rewarded, but that's only true in this life
2. This again is reason we rise above the sun

#3 – Live for the moment (Chap 8:15-9:10)

Read Chap 8:15-17

1. God can give us some great joys in the here and now under the sun, but we don't live for them
 - a. We live for the joy of then and there!

2. Solomon argues that we can't fully understand all that God is trying to do in this world – true
 - a. That's why God came into this world to give all that we need for life and godliness
 - b. Read I Tim 4:8 & II Pet 1:3

Read Vs 9:1

1. Creation itself can tell us things of God (power, etc.) but can't talk of why He did it (His loves)
2. Our works are under sovereign control of God

Read Vs 2-3

1. Only considering things under the sun leads to this fatalistic view – that nothing matters

Read Vs 4-6

1. While we're alive, we have a chance to impact the living, but death ends that chance
 - a. On right side of this premise: make the most out of every moment
 - b. On wrong side of this premise: use our moments here preparing for eternal life to come

Read Vs 7-9

1. Can almost hear the pain in his voice as he says these things – as if he himself has missed the mark
2. He would say, ‘joy is only found in the moment’
 - a. We should say ‘use every moment in the joy of the Lord to spread Christ’s words of everlasting life

Read Vs 10

1. Not a false statement, but there’s only one thing to apply our hands to that could satisfy & that is the work of Christ

#4 – Spend and be spent (Chap 9:11-18)

Read Chap 9:11-12

1. It’s not the best that succeed, but it’s chance regarding how we live and die...says Solomon
2. As Christians, we know this world won’t give us justice, but we don’t give up (Christ is worth it)
 - a. Read Heb 12:1 & I Cor 9:24

Read Vs 13-15

1. Men will use and abuse your wisdom & gifts
 - a. You changed their flat tire & now they don't even invite you to their BBQ
2. Men quickly forget, but God never does
 - a. II Tim 2:19 reminds us “the Lord know those that are His”
 - b. God has a Book of Remembrance in which our names are written in heaven (Mal 3:16 & Luke 10:20)
 - c. Everything we do in this life will be accounted for

Read Vs 16-18

1. Wisdom is great but can be easily stopped
2. Even though wisdom is helpful, the human heart still despises it choosing to live for self
 - a. Wisdom itself can't change the heart or escape the cycle of futility in this world...only Jesus can do that!

Conclusion

Although Solomon has a fatalistic view of life, his motivation is all wrong since departing the Lord, there are many points to be taken from his view

1. **We are to submit to the king**
 - a. Obeying govts can only guard us
 - b. Obeying King Jesus can also grace us!
2. **We are to live in light of judgement**
 - a. Living justly promotes justice
 - b. Dying justified promises perfect justice
3. **We are to live for the moment**
 - a. Being diligent in life brings fulness
 - b. Being diligent for Christ brings fulfillment
4. **We are to spend and be spent**
 - a. Great effort in this life brings rejuvenation
 - b. Great effort for Christ brings rejoicing and remembrance

