

Introduction

1. Fixer Uppers (P.c)

(1) a7' Softail

2. Control Freak

(1) Crooked = If I just
would have known
more or did more

(2) Everything depends
on me

3. Repercussions

(1) Anxiety / Fear

(2) Anger / Lonely

I. God's Sovereignty (v 13-14)

1. God can allow anything without being culpable (v 13)

(1) What is crooked in your life?

(2) What does sovereign mean?

(3) Why has He allowed these crooked things?

+ "he" = man; not God

+ The fullness of God's glory is seen in the fullness of sin's:

we accepted the cost } Penalty
 } Depravity

2 Cor. 4:17 - For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison...

(4) Affliction is:

+ Light - measured
+ Momentary - finite

+ Preparing - purposed

(5) Which bring us to our next point...

2. God can use anything without being evil (v14)

(1) God is sovereign & God is good

1 Jn. 1:5 - ...God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

Ps. 92:15 - ...the LORD is upright...there is no unrighteousness in him.

(2) Which means everything He does is "good"

Ps. 119:68 - You are good and do good...

(3) All evil can be good

Gen. 50:20 - As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good...

(4) The "good" He intends is fullness.

2 Cor. 4:16 - ...Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. - by the light, momentary affliction

Ja. 1:2-4 - Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

(5) Good = God's glory (2 Cor. 4:17)
Our fullness (good)

(6) Failing to acknowledge God's sovereignty in the crooked things leads to pride → I can fix it!

Heb. 13:14 - For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.

II. Man's Inability (v 15-26)

Ecc. 3 Seasons

1. Inability to know enough (v 15-19) (Know-it-alls)

2 Types
of
Control
Freaks

- (1) IF I just "figure" this out, I can prevent anything crooked from happening
- (2) Solomon is not anti-wisdom
He is anti-control
- (3) There is no secret formula where everything goes according to plan!
- (4) It is time to relax your grip before it wears you out (v 16)
- (5) v 17 - This is not nihilism, where we don't care & are unwise
- (6) v 18-19 - At the end of the day, whether things go according to plan or not, God is there to walk with you through it
- (7) Implications:
 - + Risk more + Worry less
 - + Try more things

2. Inability to be good enough (v20-26) (Perfectionists)

- (1) Maybe some of you are thinking, "I can do it well enough" or plan enough
- + Depends on me
 - + Only I can do it; right
 - + No one else can do it

I don't + trust others to not break it

- (2) Anchors the response to this thought using two examples

- (3) #1 - We're too inconsistent to be able (v20-22)

Ex: People who work for you & with you have cursed you

And you have cursed those same people under yours.

- (4) #2 - We're too incoherent (v26)

Ex: Only those aware of their life's purpose have power to defy their natural desires

III. Life's Reality (v 27-29)

1. Man's dilemma (v 27-28, 29b)

- (1) "Sought out schemes"
- (2) Trying to find a fix for this place under the sun
- (3) Either through our heads or our hands

2. God's design (v 29a)

- (1) "Made upright" - yasar
(ya-shou)
+ straight / level

Conclusion

1. What are you trying to fix-up in this place?

What is crooked/bent in your life?

(If I'm not making sure...)
Everything will fall apart

2. Maybe it's time to grow your theology up?

Stop looking for intellectual or behavioral loop-holes so you can stay in control.

3. The sovereignty of God is the only place you can find hope for what needs straightening.

4. Loosen your Grip & trust Christ w/ the plan for your life.

5. Get up everyday living your life to "please God" (v26b)

6.

 This is exactly what Christ did.