



Ecclesiastes

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Lesson 18 Study Notes – Ecclesiastes 9: 13-18

Pray

Review – Let's review what Solomon has found to be true in life and considered it vanity. He has concluded that riches, wealth and honor, come from God, yet God often takes it away through death or war, so the person doesn't enjoy it. We have to ask ourselves, is there anything that truly satisfies our souls?

Even though God has put eternity in Solomon's heart (3:11), he was on a quest to know the meaning of life, instead of a quest to know Him. The Bible tells us if we seek Him with all our heart, we will find Him. And when we find Him we are to look at life from His perspective (in the Word), not from an "under the sun" ... human perspective. Seek first as a way of life Him, His kingdom and His righteousness as Jesus tells us (Matt. 6: 33). Through our relationship with God, He will satisfy our souls.

But that does not mean we can fully understand God's works or the mysteries of life, but through our relationship with the living God, He will satisfy the soul.

Solomon spends much time reexamining wisdom, from chapter 7 through much of chapter 11. But in our last lesson, he interrupts his wisdom discussion to again give the general conclusion he comes to throughout the book (9: 7-10). In our last lesson, we saw that Solomon reminds us that time, chance and death happen to all.

This leads us to today's verse: read **9: 13-18**.

Reflect

1. Solomon again deals with wisdom, but it's really wisdom that is unappreciated. In **verses 13-15**, what wisdom seems great to him?
2. According to **verses 16-18**, though wisdom is better than strength, it is often unrecognized by others. Explain how so?
3. What truth do we read in **verse 18**. This truth is illustrated throughout the Bible. What examples of this truth do you find in the following portions of scripture?

a. **Joshua 7**

b. **2 Sam. 24**

c. **2 Sam. 15**

4. Solomon sensed that it was much easier to destroy than to build. Establishing things by wisdom is much more difficult than destroying them by the work of even one sinner. Jesus knew this... read His advice in **Matt. 10: 16-18**.

Lesson to be learned: **We must not think good will automatically triumph!**

Respond

1. How do today's verses apply to us, keeping them in the context of all of chapter 9? Since death is unavoidable and life is unpredictable, the only course we can safely take is to yield ourselves into the hands of God and walk by faith in His Word. We don't live by explanations; we live by God's promises. We don't depend on luck but on the providential working of our loving Father as we trust His promises and obey His will. Think on these truths. How's your walk of faith?

2. And as we walk by faith, we need not fear our "last enemy", because Jesus Christ has conquered death. Write out Rev. 1: 17-18

3. So should we look at life and say "Vanity of vanities? Explain! How might 1 Cor. 15: 57-58 apply?