



Ecclesiastes

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Lesson 21 Study Notes – Ecclesiastes 11: 1-10

Pray

Review - *“Is life worth living?”* That is the question the Preacher raised when he began the sermon. After experimenting and investigating “life under the sun”, he concluded, “No, life is not worth living.” He gave four arguments for this premise and then he reviewed each of them. After reviewing each argument, he came up with different conclusions. He has concluded that life is indeed worth living, even though death is unavoidable (9: 1-10) and life is unpredictable (9: 11-18). What we must do is avoid folly (chapter 10) and live by the wisdom of God.

The last lesson, we also concluded the second part of his discourse. He has determined, the best thing we can do is to trust God, do our work, accept what God sends us, and enjoy each day of our lives to the glory of God. (3: 12-15, 5: 18-20; 8:15; 9: 7-10).

All that remains for the Preacher is to conclude with practical application in Ecc. 11 & 12. He presents four pictures of life and then attaches to each picture a practical admonition for his listeners to heed. Today we will look at the first 2 pictures.

Reflect

1. Read **Ecc. 11: 1-10**.
2. In **verses 1-6**, what is the picture Solomon puts before us? Life has a certain amount of risk to it, so how must we live this adventure we call life?
3. Solomon uses two activities to illustrate his point. What are they?
4. Solomon has already established that God has a time and a purpose for everything (3: 1-11), and we must live by faith in His Word. Therefore, according to **verse 6**, we should do what? How does **Eph. 5: 15-17** support this truth?
5. In **verses 7-10** he gives us the picture that life is what? And what is his admonition?

6. But in our enjoyment of life that God gives us, he exhorts young people to watch their hearts and their eyes. Why? How does **Pro. 4: 23** and **Matt. 5: 29** support and add to this thought?

7. What instruction does Solomon give in **verse 9** to best accept life as a gift and enjoy what God gives us. What is the second instruction in **verse 10**?

Respond

1. As we close out today's lesson, think back to your childhood and youth. Solomon says that time was vanity because it goes by quickly (v10). The Hebrew word for "youth" means dawning. Youth is indeed the time of "dawning" and before we know it, the sun will start to set. If you are a young person, how does this verse encourage you? If you are way past the "dawning years" like me, do you have a content "old" age! Spend some time thinking on why you do, or why you don't?

2. If we look at life as a gift from God, what affect do you think our attitude will have on those around us, especially non-believers?