

ECCLESIASTES

Background Information:

Writer: Solomon (1:1&12)

Key word: Vanity (Meaningless)

Key verse: Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

1. Some people call the book *The Preacher*. The word means “Official speaker in an assembly or preacher”. In the Greek, (Septuagint), it comes from the word “ecclesia”. This word means a “Called out assembly”.
2. The book looks at life from a human perspective – “Under the sun” – 1:9
3. Power, Popularity, Prestige, and Pleasure – Nothing can fill the God-shaped void in man’s life.

Important:

If you take these verses out of the context of the book you can mess up your thinking. Solomon was trying to be happy apart from God: This is impossible! He was trying to think and rationalize things apart from God and nothing made sense. I trust you will think about his struggles and avoid the same pitfalls.

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ECCLESIASTES 1

Ecclesiastes 1:10

“Is there *any* thing whereof it may be said, See, this *is* new?
It hath been already of old time, which was before us.”

THE THINGS I WANT TO ACCOMPLISH THIS WEEK!!!

I COR. 10:31

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 1:10

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 1:1-3

Examine –

1. What does he call himself in this verse?
2. Whose son is he?
3. What is he?
4. Where is he reigning?
5. Who do you think this is?
6. What word, used in verse two, does he like to use?
7. How many times does he use a form of it in verse two?
8. Define the above term –
9. Write verse three to tell what you think he is saying:

10. Where do men work?

Note – The phrase “under the sun” is referring to our earthly life – a human perspective.

Apply-

Are you living your life in emptiness?

What purpose does your life have?

For what are you striving? (Analyze yesterday and this past week)

Prayer _____

Praise _____

Main thought to meditate on today _____

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 1:10

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 1:4-7

Examine –

1. What comes and what goes?
2. What stays here?
3. What arises and goes down?
4. Where does he quickly go?
5. What does the wind do?
6. Where does it end up?
7. Where do the rivers run?
8. What doesn't happen?
9. Where does the water end up?

Bonus – Give some type of scientific proof of the waters being recycled.

Apply-

His main thought in this passage is that everything has the same pattern, so what is the point. Everything will continue whether we do anything or not, so what is the point. From an earthly standpoint, this is true; and it seems fruitless. This is why eternity is so important. If we are going to die anyway why make a difference? Because of eternity!!! What is your attitude about life?

Do you need to change your perspective?

How have you been living for eternity?

Prayer _____

Praise _____

Main thought to meditate on today _____

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 1:10

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 1:8-11

Examine –

1. Man is full of _____.
2. With what is the eye not satisfied?
3. With what is the ear filled?
4. If something has been it will _____.
5. Those things done will always be _____.
6. Under the sun there is what?
7. If someone is to say that something is new, what is his response?
8. Of what is there no remembrance?
9. What about the things that will happen in the future?
10. From your perspective is this true?

Apply-

This is a philosophy that Peter describes in II Peter 3:4-5. The contention in II Peter is that nothing changes so God is not coming back. If this philosophy were true, how would it change the way we live? Write out some examples:

Prayer _____

Praise _____

Main thought to meditate on today _____

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 1:10

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 1:12-15

Examine –

1. What two titles does the writer give to himself?
2. Who was he over?
3. Where was this located?
4. What did he set his heart to do?
5. Where would he do his searching?
6. What had God given to men?
7. What has he seen under the sun?
8. What is his conclusion about them?
9. What cannot be made straight?
10. What cannot be numbered?

Apply-

Nothing else can fill the God-shaped void in our life. With what things do people try to fill it?

What on this list have you tried?

Do you believe that nothing can be made straight?

Prayer _____

Praise _____

Main thought to meditate on today _____

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 1:10

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 1: 16-18

Examine –

1. To whom did he commune?
2. To what had he come?
3. How great was his wisdom?
4. In what did his heart have great experience?
5. What book of the Bible did he write that is called the wisdom book?
6. What three things did he give his heart to know?

7. What does he perceive these to be?
8. If you have much wisdom you will have much what?
9. If you have much knowledge you will have much what?
10. Typically is this even true from a secular standpoint?

Apply-

According to Proverbs 1:7, the writer of Ecclesiastes is a _____ because he despises wisdom.

How do you feel about wisdom?

According to Proverbs 9:10, what is the beginning of wisdom?

Do you have this?

What could you do to gain it or more of it?

Prayer _____

Praise _____

Main thought to meditate on today _____

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 1:10

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Reread Ecclesiastes 1

Examine –

In the chart below list five Bible examples of trying to fill the God-shaped void with other things. List the character, passage, what they did and what the results were.

Character	Passage	What they did	What were the results

Apply-

Explain how God specifically spoke to your heart through one of the characters above!

Prayer_____

Praise_____

Main thought to meditate on today_____

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 1:10

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Reread Ecclesiastes 1

Examine –

In the chart below match the phrase with the proper verse from Eccl. 1:

Phrase	Verse
No new thing under the sun	
He that increases knowledge increases sorrow	
To know madness and folly	
All is vanity	
I the preacher	
Crooked can not be made straight	
I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom	
There is no remembrance of former things	
All things are full of labor	
King in Jerusalem	
One generation passes away	
What profit hath a man of all his labor	
The wind goeth toward the south	
All the rivers run into the sea	
See this is new	

Apply-

What one principle can you draw from this chapter that will change you!

Prayer_____

Praise_____

Main thought to meditate on today_____

Ecclesiastes 2

Ecclesiastes 2:11

“Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all *was* vanity and vexation of spirit, and *there was* no profit under the sun.”

THE THINGS I WANT TO ACCOMPLISH THIS WEEK!!!

I COR. 10:31

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 2:11

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 2:1-4

Examine –

1. To whom was he talking in the beginning of this passage?

2. With what was he going to prove himself?

Define this word in this passage:

3. What was he to enjoy?

4. What was his conclusion?

5. What was laughter?

6. To what did he give himself?

7. By what was his heart still guided?

8. Of what was he trying to lay hold?

Note: Solomon was experimenting with everything. He taught that drinking was folly but everyone seemed to do it so he thought he would try it. Although he did so with caution, it was still dangerous!

9. What three things did he do in verse 4?

Apply-

He is desperately seeking meaning in life, but he is doing so in all the wrong places. These are all places that Satan says will help, but they are empty dreams! What empty dream are you chasing?

Is God in your plans? How?

Prayer_____

Praise_____

Main thought to meditate on today_____

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 2:11

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 2:5-9

Examine –

1. What three things did he do in verse 5?
2. What did he make in verse 6?
3. Why did he make them?
4. What did he acquire in the first part of verse 7?
5. Who was born in his house?
6. Of what did he have great possession?
7. What did he gather to himself?
8. What kind of singers did he assemble?
9. What kind of musical instruments did he have?
10. He describes himself as what?
11. How does he describe his “increase”?
12. What remained with him through all this?

Apply-

It seems like he has everything, yet he was miserable. Things cannot satisfy, but God can.

Are you willing to give up your things for God?

If not those things are idols.

Give your things to God! Can you list some things that might be hard for you to give?

Prayer _____

Praise _____

Main thought to meditate on today _____

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 2:11

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 2:10-13

Examine –

1. What did he do if his eyes desired something?
2. From what did he not withhold his heart?
3. In what was his heart rejoicing?
4. Upon what was he looking?
5. What was his conclusion?
6. What was under the sun?
7. What did he focus on next?
8. Define the three words that you used above:
9. What would be the dilemma for the next King?
10. What excels folly?
11. How does he picture this excelling?

Apply-

Wisdom wins out for now but what can anyone else do? Many times, people live from one exciting event to another. Eventually the events stop coming and depression sets in. God wants us to live with our focus on Him. He wants us to get know Him. If we set out to do this, we will never run out of material. We will never run out of things to know because He is infinite. Will you set out to know God personally?

Prayer _____

Praise _____

Main thought to meditate on today _____

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 2:11

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 2:14-17

Examine –

1. Where does a fool walk?
2. A wise man can see with his _____.
3. According to the writer does this mean anything?
4. Is there any difference in them?
5. What question does he ask?
6. What does he consider about this process?
7. According to the writer, do we remember the wise over the fool?
8. What will happen in the days to come?
9. How does the wise man die?
10. How did he feel about life?
11. What is grievous to him?

BONUS: List one proof that the wise man and the fool are not remembered the same.

Apply-

Are you walking in darkness or light?

Do you hate life?

Do you have a purpose, other than living how everyone else lives?

Is there anything that does count beyond this life?

Prayer _____

Praise _____

Main thought to meditate on today _____

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 2:11

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 2:18-22

Examine –

1. What does he hate?
2. Why does he hate it?
3. What does he not know about this person?
4. Regardless of this, he will have what?
5. Why was his heart despairing?
6. In what three areas did he labor?
7. How does he describe the person to whom he leaves his stuff?
8. What is his conclusion about this?
9. Put in your own words what he is asking in verse 22:

Apply-

Sometimes it is difficult for us to understand the sacrifices others have given for what we have. Their sweat and tears and other sacrifices sometimes go unnoticed. How about writing a note to someone who prepared the way for where you are today that expresses your appreciation for what they do and have done!

Prayer _____

Praise _____

Main thought to meditate on today _____

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 2:11

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 2:23-26

Examine –

1. What are all man's days?
2. What doesn't rest in the night?
3. What three things are good for a man?

4. From whom did he say this came?
5. Can anyone out eat Solomon?
6. According to the author, what does God give to a man?

7. What does he give to the sinner?
8. Why does he do this?
9. What is his conclusion about this?

Apply-

It is true that if you work hard, you should enjoy your fruits. The point is he is enjoying his, but it is still not bringing satisfaction. It is empty! Why?

Whatever we do apart from God is empty. If you don't get anything else, get that from this series. What can you do today to make sure that God is a part of your life?

Prayer _____

Praise _____

Main thought to meditate on today _____

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 2:11

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 2

Examine –

1. List the physical things that Solomon gathered to himself:

2. List the other things that he tried:

3. How do fools and wise men die?

4. List some things that he says he hates:

5. What does he accuse God of, in the last part of the chapter?

Apply-

Write some things that Solomon could do with what he has if he were alive today and right with God:

Prayer _____

Praise _____

Main thought to meditate on today _____

ECCLESIASTES 3 & 4

Ecclesiastes 3:1

“To every *thing there is* a season,
and a time to every purpose under the heaven:”

THE THINGS I WANT TO ACCOMPLISH THIS WEEK!!!

I COR. 10:31

Date: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 3:1

Time in devotions: _____

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Examine –

1. What does everything have?
2. What has a time?

In the chart below list the opposites found in this passage and list a time when you think these would be necessary.

Item	Opposite	Time when these would happen

Apply-

List several of these that are easy to do:

List several that are hard to do:

Ask God to help you do those things that you should!

Prayer _____

Praise _____

Main thought to meditate on today _____

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 3:1

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 3:9-15

Examine –

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. What profit is there in labor? | Why does he ask this question? |
| 2. How has God made everything? | |
| 3. What can man not find out? | |
| 4. Is there any good in man? | |
| 5. What two things should man do? | |
| 6. What should man enjoy? | |
| 7. Why should he enjoy this? | |
| 8. When God does something how long does it last? | |
| 9. What alters with God's plan? | |
| 10. Why does God do these things? | |
| 11. What does God require? | |

Apply-

If God created everything and has everything in His plan, what should our response be?

Do you fear God?

Do you allow God to run your life?

This is our logical conclusion!

Prayer _____

Praise _____

Main thought to meditate on today _____

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 3:1

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 3:16-19

Examine –

1. Where does the writer observe these things?
2. What is in the place of judgment?
3. What is in the place of righteousness?
4. What two groups will God judge according to the writer?
5. For what is there a time?
6. What are we to consider?
7. What does he want man to see?
8. Why does he say this?
9. True or False: Man and beast both breathe.
10. True or False: Man and beast both die.
11. True or False: There is no difference between man and beast.

Bonus: If you answered false to #11 explain your answer and give Bible proof!

Apply-

It is true that we are all going to die, and it is true that we are all going to be judged. How should these two statements change our lives?

Prayer _____

Praise _____

Main thought to meditate on today _____

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 3:1

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 3:20-4:3

Examine –

Note: Remember that we are talking about man and beast.

1. Put a “T” for true or an “F” for false beside the following statements:
_____ After death both man and beast go to the same place.
_____ Both man and beast are dust.
_____ Both man and beasts return to dust.
2. We do find a difference with man and beast in verse 21, what is it?
3. Who does know both of these?
4. Because of this, what should man do?
5. Why should he do this?
6. What did he consider at the beginning of chapter four?
7. What did the oppressed not have?
8. What was on the side of the oppressors?
9. What did he praise?
10. How much did he praise them?
11. The dead is better than the _____ and the _____.
12. What has the unborn not yet seen?

Apply-

The author is saying that you are better off dead than alive. He is saying that the unborn should not be born. This is the ultimate of selfishness. When we kick God out of our lives there is nothing for which to live.

Prayer _____

Praise _____

Main thought to meditate on today _____

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 3:1

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 4:4-8

Examine –

1. What two things did he consider?
2. What does he get from his neighbor for this?
3. What does the fool do?
4. Read Proverbs 6:10 – What do you think the folding of the hands means?

5. Better is a little with _____.
6. When both hands are full, what do you have?
Think: The author is saying that with “stuff” comes a responsibility. He would rather not have the “stuff” so he does not have the responsibility.
7. What family does the guy described in verse eight have?
8. To what does he not have an end?
9. What does not satisfy him?
10. Why is he laboring?
11. What different statement does the author use at the end of verse 8?

Apply-

There is more responsibility the more you have. I only had me to worry about before marriage. Now I have a wife, four children, and even more being added. However, I would not trade them in for the freedom of no responsibility. People think that it would be wonderful to be free, but it also is lonely. We are back to the same theme: ONLY GOD SATISFIES!

Will you let Him satisfy you today?

Prayer _____

Praise _____

Main thought to meditate on today _____

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

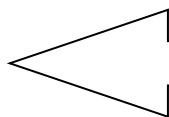
Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 3:1

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 4:9-16

Examine –

1. What is better than one?
2. Why?
3. If they fall what will the other do?
4. Why is it bad to be alone when you fall?
5. Why is it good for two to lie together?
6. What is not quickly broken?



Practical application:

Take a thread and try to break one string of it. Now take a lot of string and put them together and try to break it. You probably found that one was easy to break and a bunch was almost

7. Describe the child:
8. Describe the King:
9. What will the king not receive?
10. What will happen to everyone after the king?

Note: Everything is the same. Nothing changes with people. That is what he is saying.

Apply-

In verses 9-12 we see the principle of accountability. If you have struggled with an area of your life, then you need to ask someone to hold you to it. You need to ask someone who will be bold enough to tell you when you are wrong. Choose someone today!

Prayer _____

Praise _____

Main thought to meditate on today _____

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 3:1

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 3&4

Examine & Apply-

There are some wonderful principles in this passage: time, judgment, death, responsibility, and accountability. As you reread the passage today, look for these principles and choose one. Tell how it helped you and what you did to apply it to your life.

Prayer _____

Praise _____

Main thought to meditate on today _____

ECCLESIASTES 5-6

Ecclesiastes 5:4-5

“When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it;
for *he hath* no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed.

Better *is it* that thou shouldest not vow,
than that thou shouldest vow and not pay.”

THE THINGS I WANT TO ACCOMPLISH THIS WEEK!!!

I COR. 10:31

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 5:4-5

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 5:1-3

Examine –

- Where is the author going in this passage?
- What should we be more ready to do?
- Look up the following verses and see if you can tell what he means by the sacrifice of fools: Isaiah 1:11-16, Jeremiah 7:9-10

- With what should you not be rash?
- What should your heart not be in a hurry to do?
- Where is God?
- Where are you?
- What point do you think he is trying to make?
- How should our words be?
- From where does a dream come?

NOTE: Have you ever dreamed and it mixed up several events of the day. This is what it is talking about. We will discuss it later!

- How is a fool's voice known?

Apply-

To come to church with your heart not right with God is worthless. It does us no good to sit as if everything is O.K. when it is not. God calls this act evil. I know we are all guilty from time to time. Will you confess that before God as sin and change it?

Prayer_____

Praise_____

Main thought to meditate on today_____

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 5:4-5

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 5:4-7

Examine –

1. Define Vow -
2. To whom do you vow?
3. What should you not do when you vow?
4. In what does God have no pleasure?
5. By implication a person who does not pay a vow is a _____.
6. What are you better off doing?
 - Read Deut. 23:21-23 and answer the following questions:
7. If you don't pay a vow what does this passage call it?
8. What if you don't vow?
9. According to verse 23, how do you make a vow?
10. What kind of offering is it?
 - Go back to Ecclesiastes 5.

Bonus: Who is the angel?

11. If you do not pay God could destroy what?
12. Is there any thing worth while in dreams?
13. What is the bottom line at the end of verse 7?

Apply-

God is serious about vows. Have you ever made a vow and not kept it. God calls it sin and wants you to confess it and keep the vow.

Prayer _____

Praise _____

Main thought to meditate on today _____

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 5:4-5

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 5:8-11

Examine –

1. What three things does he say that you could see?
2. Who else sees those things?
3. How does he describe God's position?
4. Who profits from the earth?
5. What serves the King?
6. How do you think it does that?
7. What could someone love?
8. If he does, will it satisfy?
9. What else could you love?
10. If you increase in goods, what else increases?
11. According to the author what is the only good that these things are to him?

Apply-

God sees all! How could that affect you today if you really let it sink in?

Are you chasing the money of the world?

You will never be satisfied with it!

Prayer_____

Praise_____

Main thought to meditate on today_____

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 5:4-5

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 5:12-17

Examine –

1. What is sweet and to whom is it sweet?
2. What does not matter to the laboring man?
3. What causes the rich to not sleep?
4. What does he see under the sun?
5. What is this evil?
6. What happens to the riches?
7. When a new baby is born what does he have?
8. What will he take with him?
9. How does I Timothy 6:7 prove this point?
10. For what does he say that he labored?
11. Where does he eat?
12. What does he have with his sickness?

Apply-

This is a whole other way to say life is not worth living. Since we can't bring anything in or take anything out and it is full of darkness and sickness, why live?

Can you answer that question?

Prayer _____

Praise _____

Main thought to meditate on today _____

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 5:4-5

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 5:18-6:2

Examine –

1. What does the author say is good?
2. How often should he do this?
3. Who gave him this portion?
4. Who gives all things?
5. Riches wealth and power are gifts from whom?
6. According to the author will you remember your life?
7. How will God answer you?

Note: The author is saying that God is going to do whatever He pleases so it does not matter. God *can* do what He wants, but He has given us a choice and our judgments are based on those choices.

8. What evil is common in man?
9. What is he trying to say here?
10. He says that it is an evil _____.

Apply-

If God is the giver of all these things, doesn't it make sense to serve Him no matter what we want out of life?

Is God evil?

What if He does something we think is not good?

How should we respond?

Prayer _____

Praise _____

Main thought to meditate on today _____

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 5:4-5

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 6:3-8

Examine –

1. How many children does he say a man could have?
THINK: Was it possible for Solomon to have this many?
2. How many years does he live?
3. With what is his soul not filled?
4. What does he not have at death?
5. What is better than he?
6. With what does he come in?
7. With what does he depart?
8. What will happen to his name?
9. Who does not see the sun or know anything? (Think)
10. How many years does he say you could live?
BONUS: Give Bible proof that all do not go to the same place.
11. Why does a man labor?
12. What is not satisfied?
13. According to the author, how are people separated?

Apply-

The Bible tells us that we can go one of two places and the choice we make here will determine that. What choice have you made?

Write the reason you think you are going to a place.

Prayer _____

Praise _____

Main thought to meditate on today _____

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 5:4-5

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 6:9-12

Examine –

1. What is better than wandering desires?

Note: What you can see with your eyes is what you have but what your desires are can not be satisfied. Therefore we should be satisfied with what we have.

2. What is named already?
3. With what can a man not contend?
4. How many things increase vanity?
5. What does he conclude by this?
6. How does he describe life?
7. How long is life?
8. Read James 4:14. Is his description in verse 12 true?
9. What does he think that you can not tell?

Apply-

Many people feel this way . . . that no one has the answers to life. We, however, do have the answers. This is why it is so important for us to share with others. How have you shared the answers to life with others this week?

Are you living life as if you have the answers?

Prayer _____

Praise _____

Main thought to meditate on today _____

Ecclesiastes 7

Ecclesiastes 7:5

“It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools.”

THE THINGS I WANT TO ACCOMPLISH THIS WEEK!!!

I COR. 10:31

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 7:5

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 7:1

Examine –

1. What is better than precious ointment?

Read Proverbs 22:1

2. In this passage, a good name is better than what?

Read Song of Solomon 1:3

3. What is a name like in this passage?

BONUS: Why were names so significant in Bible times? (Offer some kind of proof)

4. What would be a precious ointment?
5. What two days does he mention here?
6. Which one does he say is better?

Read Revelation 14:13

7. When is it better to die than live?
8. What will happen to those who die in the Lord?

Read Phil. 1:21-23

9. With what dilemma was Paul struggling?
10. Why did he want to go?
11. Why did he want to stay?

Apply-

How is your name?

Would you trade your name for riches?

What are you doing now to protect your name?

Prayer_____

Praise_____

Main thought to meditate on today_____

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 7:5

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 7:2-6

Examine –

1. What two houses does he mention here?
2. Which one, according to him, is better?
3. Why is it better?
4. What is better than laughter?
5. Why?
6. Where is the heart of wise men?
7. Where is the heart of foolish men?
8. What is better to hear?
9. What is not good to hear?

NOTE: The cracking of thorns gives the idea that the wood makes noise as it burns but it is useless to the purpose of the burning wood.

10. To what does he compare this?

Apply-

Life is not one big party, but neither is it one big funeral. Yes, there is a time to laugh and a time to mourn. Empty laughter is foolish and pointless. We should be serious about living God's way and be willing to hear rebuke, but your face doesn't have to look like someone just died. Ask God to give you a smile!!!

Prayer _____

Praise _____

Main thought to meditate on today _____

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 7:5

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 7:7-10

Examine –

1. What makes a wise man mad?
2. What destroys a heart?
3. According to Proverbs 17:23, what kind of man is mentioned here?
4. What does he try to do with a gift?
5. According to Proverbs 29:4, what can overthrow judgment?
6. Back to Ecclesiastes: What two types of spirits does he mention in verse 8?

7. Which one is better?
8. What should you not be hasty to do?
9. Where does anger rest?

Read Proverbs 16:32:

10. What are you better than if you are slow to anger?
11. What is better than taking a city?
12. Back to Ecclesiastes: What is not a wise question to consider?

Apply-

Are you patient?

Are you proud?

Do you have a quick temper?

Which one of these do you need to work on the most?

Ask God to help you today!

Prayer _____

Praise _____

Main thought to meditate on today _____

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 7:5

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 7:11-15

1. Examine –
1. Wisdom with what is good?
2. What is it to us if we have these?
3. According to Proverbs 13:22, is it right to receive an inheritance?
4. What two things are defenses?
5. What does wisdom do to those who have it?
6. What should we consider?
7. If God has made something crooked what can we do about it?
8. In what should we be joyful?
9. What should we do in adversity?
10. Why does God bring both adversity and joy?
11. How does a just man perish?
12. How does a wicked man prolong his life?

THINK: Doesn't it seem this way? Isn't this true sometimes?

Apply-

What is not seen in this life? (This is in reference to the above question)

After death, which of the two will be better off?

Will you die in righteousness?

Take a minute to imagine what it will be like to stand before the Lord.

Prayer _____

Praise _____

Main thought to meditate on today _____

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 7:5

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 7:16-22

Examine –

1. What should you not be “over much”?
2. You also should not make yourself over what?
3. Why did he say these things in the above two points?
4. You should not be to _____ or _____.
5. If you are these two things you might what?
6. Of what should you take hold?
7. What does wisdom do to the wise?
8. How much does it do this?
9. What is not on the earth?
10. To what should you not take heed?
11. What does your own heart do sometimes?

Apply-

The author is saying don’t be too righteous, but don’t be too wicked; just kind of stay in the middle. What is wrong with this philosophy?

Do people believe this way today?

Are you living this way?

If being righteous was going to kill you, how would you respond? (Think carefully before you answer this.)

Prayer _____

Praise _____

Main thought to meditate on today _____

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 7:5

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 7:23-29

Examine –

1. How has he proved things?
2. What did he say he would be?
3. Where was it?
4. What two ways does he describe wisdom?
5. What did he apply to this cause?
6. In what three ways did he do it?
7. What other three things did he want to know?
8. What is more bitter than death?
9. How does he describe her?
10. How do we escape her?
11. Who shall be taken by her?
12. Has he found the right woman yet?
13. How many right men has he found?
14. According to the writer how did God make man?
15. What has man done?

Apply-

We go back to the same application: anything apart from God is vanity. Even your future marriage is in danger apart from God. We can, however, escape from sinful people by obeying God. Are you willing to do this today?

Will you be in the minority who want to do right?

Will you be that one in a thousand?

Are you willing to stand if no one stands with you?

Prayer _____

Praise _____

Main thought to meditate on today _____

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 7:5

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 7

Examine –

Can you list 10 Biblical principles from this passage?

Apply-

Which of these impacted your heart this week and how did it change you?

Prayer _____

Praise _____

Main thought to meditate on today _____

Ecclesiastes 8-9

Ecclesiastes 9:10

“Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do *it* with thy might; for *there is* no work, nor device, no knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.”

THE THINGS I WANT TO ACCOMPLISH THIS WEEK!!!

I COR. 10:31

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 9:10

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 8:1-5

Examine –

1. What makes a man's face to shine?
2. What will be changed about his face?
3. What does he counsel you to do?
4. A king's oath is to whom?
5. What should you not be hasty to do?
6. In what should we not stand?
7. Who does what ever he pleases?
8. Where is power?
9. What can people not do to a king?
10. How can you flee no evil?
11. What does a wise man discern?
12. What does this last question have to do with a king?

Apply-

It was a principle in those days that a king had absolute authority. No one dared to question him. In application to our lives: Jesus has absolute authority, but do we recognize it?

He has the power to do whatever He wants to do. How do you respond to His daily leading in your life?

How do you recognize Him as King?

Prayer _____

Praise _____

Main thought to meditate on today _____

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 9:10

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 8:6-11

Examine –

1. Every purpose has what two things accompanying it?
2. What is great upon him?
3. Although a king has great authority what does he not know?
4. What power does no man have?
5. In what day does he not have power?
6. From what is there no discharge?
Bonus: From what three things can you not escape (discharge)?
7. What shall not deliver those that are given to it?
8. What is there a time for in verse 9?
9. Who did he see buried?
10. Where had they come and gone?
11. What happened in that city to them?
12. What does not happen speedily?
13. As a result of this, what do men seek to do?

Apply-

No matter how cool you are, how much money you have, or how much power you have there are some things that you cannot avoid. Are you ready for death?

Is your heart set on doing evil?

Will you be forgotten after your death?

Prayer _____

Praise _____

Main thought to meditate on today _____

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 9:10

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 8:12-15

Examine –

1. How many times could a sinner do evil?
2. What could happen to his days?
3. With whom shall it be well?
4. With whom shall it not be well?
5. To what is life compared?
6. What did the wicked not do?
7. What sometimes happens to just men?
8. What sometimes happens to the wicked?
9. What is his conclusion about this stuff?
10. What did he commend?
11. Define the above answer.
12. What is the best thing that men can do in this life?
13. Why does the author suggest this lifestyle?

Apply-

Although life may seem unfair at times, we must look at the long term. Everything will be balanced out in eternity. It may look like the wicked are rewarded and the righteous are punished but God is keeping records. Are you living in sin and thinking that you are getting away with it?

God knows the kind of music you listen to, the kind of things you think, and what you really are inside. Don't keep living a wrong way. Ask God to forgive you.

Prayer _____

Praise _____

Main thought to meditate on today _____

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 9:10

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 8:16-9:3

Examine –

1. To what did he apply his heart? (2 things)
2. How often does the person at the end of verse 16 get sleep?
Note – These people are so consumed with the pursuit of business that they can never sleep!
3. Can man understand what God is doing?
4. What two types of people try to know about God's doing?
5. Where did he consider these things in chapter nine?
6. What three things are in God's hands?
7. What can no man know?
NOTE: This probably means that if you just look at life in general it would be hard to tell who has God's favor (Love or Hate).
8. In the chart below list the good in column one and the bad in column two

10. What one event will we all face?
11. What is our heart full of while we live?
12. What happens after life?

Apply-

Remember Solomon is looking from the perspective of earth. He has no thought of God's spiritual rewards. If we pulled out the spiritual rewards, I feel like it would still be worth serving God because of the peace, blessings, and help now. If we add in eternity, then it is not a contest.

What is your choice in this matter?

Does it matter to you?

Prayer_____

Praise_____

Main thought to meditate on today_____

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 9:10

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 9:4-9

Examine –

1. To whom is there hope?
2. What is better than a dead lion?
3. What does the living know?
4. What do the dead know?
5. What else do they not have?
6. What is forgotten?
7. What three emotions are gone for these people?
8. What portion do the dead have “under the sun”?
9. How should you eat bread?
10. How should you drink wine?
11. According to the author, why should you do these things?
12. What color should be their garments?
13. What should be on their head?

NOTE: This is probably referring to the feeling you have the day you are married!

14. With whom should you live joyfully?

Apply-

Again, he is concentrating on this life only. Everyone dies, YES! It is true from our earthly perspective that living is better than dying, but from a Heavenly perspective, for those of us who are saved, this is as bad as it will be. When is the last time you have thanked God that this is not all you have to look forward?

Thank Him today!!!

Prayer _____

Praise _____

Main thought to meditate on today _____

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 9:10

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 9:10-12

Examine –

1. How should we do everything?
2. What four things are not in the grave?

3. Why do you think he made this statement?

4. What was his purpose?

5. In the chart below write the things that go together and why this seems odd:

Item	Characteristic	Odd why it does not
15.	16.	17.
18.	19.	20.
21.	22.	23.
24.	25.	26.
27.	28.	29.

6. What happens to them all?

7. What does man not know?

8. What two things does he use to describe the men being caught in an evil time?

9. How does this time fall on them?

Apply-

What truth can you take out of this passage and how will it apply to you today?

Prayer _____

Praise _____

Main thought to meditate on today _____

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 9:10

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 8-9:12

Examine –

Look back over the passages that you read and write down the principles that you find!

Apply-

Pick a few principles that you struggle with and write how God could use those in your life!

Prayer _____

Praise _____

Main thought to meditate on today _____

ECCLESIASTES 9-10

Ecclesiastes 10:18

By much slothfulness the building decayeth;
and though idleness of the hands the house droppeth through.

THE THINGS I WANT TO ACCOMPLISH THIS WEEK!!!

I COR. 10:31

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 10:18

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 9:13-18

Examine –

1. What kind of city does he talk about?
 2. How many people are in it?
 3. Who came against it?
 4. What two things did this man do to the city?
 5. What kind of man was found in the city?
 6. What did he do?
 7. How did he do this?
 8. What happened to him?
 9. Wisdom is better than what?
 10. How was the man's wisdom treated?
 11. Where are a wise man's words heard?
 12. They are heard more than what?
 13. What is wisdom better than?
 14. What can one sinner do?
- BONUS – Can you think of a Bible example of the above question?

Apply-

Are you quietly listening to wisdom or the cry of fools?

Are you doing much destruction?

How might you be destroying good?

Prayer _____

Praise _____

Main thought to meditate on today _____

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 10:18

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 10:1-3

Examine –

Note: The apothecary was a perfume maker.

1. What would get in the ointment?
2. Based on the above note, for what was this ointment used?
3. How would it smell?
4. What kind of reputation does this person have?
5. How much folly does he have?
6. What will happen if this folly gets in to him?
7. Where is the wise man's heart?
8. Where is the foolish man's heart?

Note: Throughout the Bible the right hand always signified honor. (Psalms 110:1)

When God separates the sheep and the goats he will put the sheep (Saved) on the right and the goats (Lost) on the left. In this case the left hand is a place of dishonor. Jesus stands at the right hand of God.

9. Based on the above paragraph who is the honored one in verse two?
10. When does a fool's wisdom fail him?
11. As he walks what is he saying to everyone?

Apply-

Do you stink to God? (See II Cor. 2:15 and Phil 4:18)

Do people know by how you walk and the way (direction) you walk that you are a fool?

How do people know that you are wise?

Prayer _____

Praise _____

Main thought to meditate on today _____

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 10:18

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 10:4-7

Examine –

1. Who would rise up against you?
2. What should you not leave?
3. What should you do?
4. What will this produce?
 - Read Proverbs 25:15
5. How is a prince persuaded?
6. What breaks the bone?
 - Back to Ecclesiastes
7. What proceeds from the ruler?
8. Where is folly set?
9. What is a low place?
10. What were servants doing?
11. What were princes doing?
12. Why is this strange?

Apply-

I think the point to this is that no matter what should be or what you are striving for it doesn't always work that way. You may have a dream that you are pursuing, but will it turn out like you think?

Some people are in bondage by the very thing they are pursuing. Stay where God puts you. No matter what problems - stay put!!

Prayer _____

Praise _____

Main thought to meditate on today _____

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 10:18

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 10:8-11

Examine –

1. What will happen to those that dig a pit?
2. What happens to those who break a hedge?
3. What happens to those who remove stones?
4. What happens to those who cleave wood?
BONUS – All these statements lead to one Bible principle. List it and give a Bible reference!
5. Define whet –
6. Based on this definition what has happened to the blade?
7. What does he have to do as a result of this?
Note: The word direct means to give success.
8. What will wisdom do for us then?
9. Do you need to hear a snake for him to bite you?
10. How is a babbler compared to this?
11. What is a babbler?

Apply-

If wisdom brings success, are you seeking wisdom?

Take the principle in the first four questions and tell how it could apply to your life?

Prayer _____

Praise _____

Main thought to meditate on today _____

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 10:18

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 10:12-15

Examine –

1. How are a wise man's words?
2. What will a fool's lips do to him?
3. With what do his words begin?
4. With what do they end?
5. With what is a fool filled?
6. What two things can you not tell him?
7. Can you tell him anything?
8. What wearies everyone?
9. Why is this so?

Apply-

Are you known as someone who can never be told anything?

Are you constantly running your mouth?

Are you gracious even in your speech?

Look up some verses that tell us about our speech and ask God to help you with this today!

Prayer _____

Praise _____

Main thought to meditate on today _____

Date: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 10:18

Read – Ecclesiastes 10:16-20

Time in devotions: _____

Time in prayer: _____

Examine –

1. When is the land in trouble? (Two things)

2. When is a nation blessed? (Two things)

3. Why should we eat?

4. How does a building decay?

5. How does a house drop through?

6. For what is feast made?

7. What does wine do?

8. What is the answer to all things?

THINK: Was this true even in Solomon's life?

9. What should we not do?

10. Who and where should you not curse?

11. Why should you not do this?

Note: the phrase a little birdie told me comes from this passage!



Apply-

I think we could say that this passage is about discipline. Are you a disciplined person in the following areas?

Eating –

Laziness –

Money –

Tongue –

Ask God to help you get the victory!

Prayer _____

Praise _____

Main thought to meditate on today _____

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 10:18

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 9:13-10

Examine & Apply

In the chart below put as many principles from Scripture as you can find in the first column and how they will help you in the second.

Prayer_____

Praise_____

Main thought to meditate on today_____

ECCLESIASTES 11-12

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God, and keep his commandments: for this *is* the whole *duty* of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether *it be* good, or whether *it be* evil.”

THE THINGS I WANT TO ACCOMPLISH THIS WEEK!!!
I COR. 10:31

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

Examine –

Apply-

Prayer_____

Praise_____

Main thought to meditate on today_____

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 11:7-10

Examine –

Apply-

Prayer _____

Praise _____

Main thought to meditate on today _____

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 12: 1-4

Examine –

Apply-

Prayer_____

Praise_____

Main thought to meditate on today_____

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 12:5-7

Examine –

Apply-

Prayer_____

Praise_____

Main thought to meditate on today_____

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 12:8-12

Examine –

Apply-

Prayer _____

Praise _____

Main thought to meditate on today _____

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

Examine –

Apply-

Prayer _____

Praise _____

Main thought to meditate on today _____

Date: _____

Time in devotions: _____

Weekly memory verse – Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

Time in prayer: _____

Read – Ecclesiastes 11-12 - Review

Examine –

Apply-

Prayer_____

Praise_____

Main thought to meditate on today_____
