

Ecclesiastes 8

4. One Should Fear God. 8:10-13

- 10 So then, I have seen the wicked buried, those who used to go in and out from the holy place, and they are soon forgotten in the city where they did thus. This too is *futility*.
- 11 Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed quickly, therefore the hearts of the sons of men among them are given fully to do evil.
- 12 Although a sinner does evil a hundred times and may lengthen his life, still I know that it will be well for those who fear God, who fear Him openly.
- 13 But it will not be well for the evil man and he will not lengthen his days like a shadow, because he does not fear God.

Summary:

1. There are those who were religiously observant of the forms of the law, but were wicked in their hearts, and left no lasting _____.
2. Some will believe that because the wicked endure and even prosper, it is the _____ way of life.
3. There are no good thoughts going on in their soul because they have no _____ for God.
4. Slow justice _____ criminal activity.
5. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of _____. Prov 1:7

5. When God Doesn't Make Sense. 8:14-15

- 14 There is *futility* which is done on the earth, that is, there are righteous men to whom it (*futility*) happens according to the deeds of the wicked. On the other hand, there are evil men to whom it (*futility*) happens according to the deeds of the righteous. I say that this too is *futility*.
- 15 So I commended pleasure, for there is nothing good for a man under the sun except to eat and to drink and to be merry, and this will stand by him in his toils throughout the days of his life which God has given him under the sun.

Summary:

1. There is a frustration in the wise man when evil and good do not receive the _____ justice.
2. If this frustration is left unchecked, it leads to the thought process that the only thing that matters is our own _____ pleasure.
3. One day though all will be _____. Mal 3:13-4:3

6. Man Cannot Discover It All. 8:16-17

- 16 When I gave my heart to know wisdom and to see the task which has been done on the earth (even though one should never sleep day or night),
- 17 and I saw every work of God, I concluded that man cannot discover the work which has been done under the sun. Even though man should seek laboriously, he will not discover; and though the wise man should say, "I know," he cannot discover.

Summary:

1. It is impossible for any one human to fully _____ and _____ all that God has done on the earth.
2. If that is a person's life objective, then life can be nothing but _____.
3. While inductive reasoning has its place, there is always the possibility of _____ data.
4. It is a matter of having the wrong _____.
5. Thinking one's does know it all is simply a manifestation of _____.

Ecclesiastes 9:1-18

7. Solomon's Explanation. 9:1

- 1 For I have taken all this to my heart and explain it that righteous men, wise men, and their deeds are in the hand of **(the)** God. Man does not know whether it will be love or hatred; anything awaits him.

Summary:

1. When the righteous and/or wise do their deeds, the effects are in the _____ of God. 1 Cor 12:4-6
2. Some people will _____ the righteous/wise men and some will _____ them.
3. One cannot use the good and bad things that come into life as a _____ of God's love.

8. Everyone Faces Death. 9:2-6

- 2 It is the same for all. There is one fate for the righteous and for the wicked; for the good, for the clean, and for the unclean; for the man who offers a sacrifice and for the one who does not sacrifice. As the good man is, so is the sinner; as the swearer is, so is the one who is afraid to swear.
- 3 This is an evil in all that is done under the sun, that there is one fate for all men. Furthermore, the hearts of the sons of men are full of evil, and insanity is in their hearts throughout their lives. Afterwards they go to the dead.
- 4 For whoever is joined with all the living, there is hope; surely a live dog is better than a dead lion.
- 5 For the living know they will die; but the dead do not know anything, nor have they any longer a reward, for their memory is forgotten.
- 6 Indeed their love, their hate, and their zeal have already perished, and they will no longer have a share in all that is done under the sun.

Summary:

1. Without God in our lives, it doesn't make any _____ what we do in this life.
2. Everyone will face the same end, _____.

3. As long as we have life, hope is _____.
4. But without a belief in God, death is the end of _____ and what we do here doesn't make any difference.
5. Without God, one cannot leave an _____ and know whether or not it did any good.

9. Enjoy Life. 9:7-9

- 7 Go then, eat your bread in happiness, and drink your wine with a cheerful heart; for God has already approved your works.
- 8 Let your clothes be white all the time, and let not oil be lacking on your head.
- 9 Enjoy life with the woman whom you love all the days of your *fleeting* life which He has given to you under the sun; for this is your reward in life, and in your toil in which you have labored under the sun.

Summary:

1. Without God, a person can just _____ to make the best of it.
2. With God, life can be the _____.
3. Life can seem great without God, but as previously taught, there will still be a _____ in the _____.

10. Enjoy Life Mightily. 9:10

- 10 Whatever your hand finds to do, verily, do it with all your might; for there is no activity or planning or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol where you are going.

Summary:

1. Life for the unbeliever might as well be lived to the _____.
2. Because after death, there will be no _____ of any kind.

11. Don't Think You Have It All Figured Out. 9:11-12

- 11 I again saw under the sun that the race is not to the swift, and the battle is not to the warriors, and neither is bread to the wise, nor wealth to the discerning, nor favor to men of ability; for time and chance overtake them all.
- 12 Moreover, man does not know his time: like fish caught in a treacherous net, and birds trapped in a snare, so the sons of men are ensnared at an evil time when it suddenly falls on them.

Summary:

1. By mere _____ standards, some things just don't make sense.
2. Life is full of _____.
3. We never know _____ when it will end.

12. True And Good Wisdom. 9:13-18

- 13 Also this I came to see as wisdom under the sun, and it impressed me.
14 There was a small city with few men in it and a great king came to it, surrounded it, and constructed large siegeworks against it.
15 But there was found in it a poor wise man and he delivered the city by his wisdom. Yet no one remembered that poor man.
16 So I said, "Wisdom is better than strength." But the wisdom of the poor man is despised and his words are not heeded.
17 The words of the wise heard in quietness are better than the shouting of a ruler among fools.
18 Wisdom is better than weapons of war, but one sinner destroys much good.

Summary:

1. **Heroes are often quickly _____.**
2. **Their _____ are more easily remembered.**
3. **The wisdom that led to _____ in the past is often not considered in the present.**
4. **Wisdom is far greater than _____ in the hands of a fool.**
5. **A lack of wisdom can _____ a lot of good.**