

Ecclesiastes Chapter 9 -10

Chapter 9 – Your Last Enemy: Death

Outline

- Verses 1-10 Death is unavoidable
- Verses 11- 18 Life is unpredictable

Hebrews 9: 27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

- Only God can alter or change death – Enoch; Elijah; Lazarus; Jesus
- As a follower of Jesus Christ, we live prepared to die – death is a fact of life – Jesus overcame death
- We are told to watch and be ready (Matthew 24:42)
- Parable of the Ten Virgins (Matthew 25:13)

VS 1 – only God knows the future – we don't – Luke 12:16-20 Parable of the Rich Fool

VS 2 – All of us share a common destiny on earth – death and the grave; but we do not share a common destiny in eternity.

Jesus defeated Death

- Romans 6:23 – wages of sin is death but in Jesus we have the gift of eternal life
- John 11:25-26 – Lazarus and Mary – I am the resurrection and the life
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 – God will bring those who sleep in Jesus
- 1 Corinthians 15: 51-58 – our final victory

VS 3 When death comes to a family it does not create a problem, but it exposes problems

VS 4-6 Endurance

- Where there is life there is hope
- Christians have a living hope through faith in Jesus Christ
- Seize opportunities while you are alive; when life ends there are no further opportunities

VS 7- 10 Enjoyment

- Enjoy your meals
- Enjoy all occasions, family celebrations
- Enjoy faithful and long marriage
- Enjoy hard work – our work will be judged (1 Cor 3:10) work as unto the lord (Col 3:17)
- The prodigal son left home to pursue happiness; came home to find true happiness

Life is Unpredictable VS 11-18

VS 11 – our gifts and abilities are not guarantee success – there are often things out of our control

VS 12 – Things can change quickly moving from very good to very bad – fish and bird caught

James 4: 13-16

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow ^[13]we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; ¹⁴whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. ¹⁵Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that." ¹⁶But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

VS 13-18

- This wisdom of the poor man could save the city/ or did he save the city
- Wisdom is better than strength
- One sinner can destroy much good
- Adam's disobedience (Romans 5:12)
- Achan's theft brought defeat to Israel – Battle of AI, Joshua 7
- David's sin – trouble to Israel and his family

Since death is certain and life is unpredictable, we are encouraged to live by faith standing on the promises of God – we live by promises, not explanations.

Chapter 10 – Folly and Foolishness

VS 1 – What dead flies are to perfume, folly is to the reputation of the wise person. The wise stay away from folly

VS 2,3 – Right hand is always the position of power – Jesus is at the right hand of the Father

- The fool has no wisdom in his heart and by his life choices everybody can see it
- The fool gets into trouble
- The fool doesn't listen to the wise
- The fool does not learn from his mistakes

VS 4-7 **The Foolish Ruler**

- Anger in rulers is not wise – Prov 16:32; Prov 25:28
- Rulers that put the wrong people in positions of authority are fools – slaves ride, nobles walk
- Rehoboam – (1 Kings 12: 1-24) did not listen to the wisdom of the elders

VS 8-11 **Foolish Workers**

- In both examples the workers did not take the proper precautions to avoid injury or harm
- One can be overconfident – take foolish chances
- Why not stop cutting wood and sharpen the axe?
- Getting bit by an uncharmed viper – foolish

VS 12-15 Foolish Talkers

- Fools use destructive words – often talking before thinking
- Proverbs 13:3 – guarding your mouth preserves your life
- Proverbs 21:23 – he who guards his mouth will keep his soul from trouble
- Fools often don't make sense – they speak nonsense
- Fools don't tame the tongue – James 3:1-2

VS 16-20 Foolish Officers

1. Indulgence – immature leaders, party in the morning and use their authority for themselves
2. Incompetence – they neglect that which needs attention – building and organization decay

(See Graph Below)

3. Indifference -feasting, making merry and spending money foolishly – fail to understand the responsibilities that go with the office – I Tim 6:10
4. Indiscretion – Honoring the office – David and King Saul – do not lift hand against God's anointed

Summary to this point

- On the front-end Solomon seems very pessimistic – life is not worth living
- However, as we enter the last two chapters, we reach a different conclusion
- We can live life trusting what God has given us to enjoy, do our work, trust His faithfulness, and enjoy each day

