

The Equalizer

Reading: Ecclesiastes 9:4-11

(Ecclesiastes 8:1-9) Who is like a wise man? And who knows the interpretation of a thing? A man's wisdom makes his face shine, And the sternness of his face is changed. {2} I say, "Keep the king's commandment for the sake of your oath to God. {3} "Do not be hasty to go from his presence. Do not take your stand for an evil thing, for he does whatever pleases him." {4} Where the word of a king is, there is power; And who may say to him, "What are you doing?" {5} He who keeps his command will experience nothing harmful; And a wise man's heart discerns both time and judgment, {6} Because for every matter there is a time and judgment, Though the misery of man increases greatly. {7} For he does not know what will happen; So who can tell him when it will occur? {8} No one has power over the spirit to retain the spirit, And no one has power in the day of death. There is no release from that war, And wickedness will not deliver those who are given to it. {9} All this I have seen, and applied my heart to every work that is done under the sun: There is a time in which one man rules over another to his own hurt.

Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God. [Romans 13:1-2 & 7] The powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever resists the power, resists the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.... Render therefore to all their dues; tribute to whom tribute; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor. (Galatians 6:7) Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

But WHAT IF I AM OPPRESSED?

Sooner or later every wicked ruler dies. This is one war with no "Discharge". *All this I have seen, and applied my heart to every work that is done under the sun: There is a time in which one man rules over another to his own hurt.*

(Ecclesiastes 8:10-11) Then I saw the wicked buried, who had come and gone from the place of holiness, and they were forgotten in the city where they had so done. This also is vanity. {11} Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.

An apparent discrepancy?

There is a question on prolonging days in *(Ecclesiastes 8:12-13). Though a sinner does evil a hundred times, and his days are prolonged, yet I surely know that it will be well with those who fear God, who fear before Him. {13} But it will not be well with the wicked; nor will he prolong his days, which are as a shadow, because he does not fear before God.*

[James 4:14] For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.

(Ecclesiastes 8:14-15) There is a vanity which occurs on earth, that there are just men to whom it happens according to the work of the wicked; again, there are wicked men to whom it happens according to the work of the righteous. I said that this also is vanity. {15} So I commended enjoyment, because a man has nothing better under the sun than to eat, drink, and be merry; for this will remain with him in his labor all the days of his life which God gives him under the sun.

[1 Corinthians 15:32] What advantage do I have if the dead rise not? Let us eat and drink; for tomorrow we die.

(Ecclesiastes 8:17) then I saw all the work of God, that a man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun. For though a man labors to discover it, yet he will not find it; moreover, though a wise man attempts to know it, he will not be able to find it. FAITH is the ANSWER.

CHAPTER 9

(Ecclesiastes 9:1-3) For I considered all this in my heart, so that I could declare it all: that the righteous and the wise and their works are in the hand of God. People know neither love nor hatred by anything they see before them. {2} All things come alike to all: One event happens to the righteous and the wicked; To the good, the clean, and the unclean; To him who sacrifices and him who does not sacrifice. As is the good, so is the sinner; He who takes an oath as he who fears an oath. {3} This is an evil in all that is done under the sun: that one thing happens to all. Truly the hearts of the sons of men are full of evil; madness is in their hearts while they live, and after that they go to the dead.

You cannot know the love or approval of God by what befalls you in life. *[Hebrews 12:5-6] My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when you are rebuked of Him. The Lord chastens and scourges every son who He loves..* The only way we know God chastises his beloved children is by Revelation...not life's circumstances.

Misconception Of Living In Relation To The Dead

(Ecclesiastes 9:4-6) But for him who is joined to all the living there is hope, for a living dog is better than a dead lion. {5} For the living know that they will die; But the dead know nothing, And they have no more reward, For the memory of them is forgotten. {6} Also their love, their hatred, and their envy have now perished; Nevermore will they have a share In anything done under the sun.

You must understand CONTEXT in order to get CONTENT.

(Ecclesiastes 9:10) Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going.

Human Resource Is Not Always The Whole Story

(Ecclesiastes 9:11-12) I returned and saw under the sun that; The race is not to the swift, Nor the battle to the strong, Nor bread to the wise, Nor riches to men of understanding, Nor favor to men of skill; But time and chance happen to them all. {12} For man also does not know his time: Like fish taken in a cruel net, Like birds caught in a snare, So the sons of men are snared in an evil time, When it falls suddenly upon them.

Why won't they listen?

(Ecclesiastes 9:13-18) This wisdom I have also seen under the sun, and it seemed great to me: {14} There was a little city with few men in it; and a great king came against it, besieged it, and built great snares around it. {15} Now there was found in it a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city. Yet no one remembered that same poor man. {16} Then I said: "Wisdom is better than strength. Nevertheless the poor man's wisdom is despised, And his words are not heard. {17} Words of the wise, spoken quietly, should be heard Rather than the shout of a ruler of fools. {18} Wisdom is better than weapons of war; But one sinner destroys much good."