

Correspondence Bible Study

Lesson #20 - Ecclesiastes

PRAYER:

Father in heaven, help me to see that You give meaning to life. When I get discouraged and ready to give up – show me that You are my strength. Help me to have the true joy of life found only in Jesus Christ. Show me how to share this joy with my family and all those I come into contact with. Enable me to fear and love You above all things. In Christ's name, I pray. Amen.

Notes on Ecclesiastes:

The Book shows that life without God is without hope and meaning. The Book opens 1:2 and closes 12:8 with the author dwelling on the futility of life. In its first reading, it seems that Solomon (King from 962-922 B.C.) is very negative about life. He had all life could offer and found that power, prestige, popularity and pleasure do not fulfill a person apart from having the Lord in their lives.

Ecclesiastes is considered one of the books of Wisdom Literature in the Old Testament. Putting the best construction on Solomon's life would have us say that he wrote this book late in his life and was finally convinced that the ways of the world are meaningless apart from God. Hopefully, the Holy Spirit was able to renew his faith in God's promises before his death. Look for the positive in Ecclesiastes, you will be able to find it.

Questions:

1. Read 1:9-10 – What would be an example of “nothing new under the sun?”

How would it help us if we remembered this fact from generation to generation?

2. Read 2:24, 3:12-13, 5:19 – What is Solomon encouraging us to do?

How is the Lord connected to our day-in, day-out lives?

3. There is a song that uses the words of 3:1-8. What is the main point Solomon is making in these verses?
4. 3:19-21 – The idea that man is only a glorified animal is the only one we could come to apart from God. What do we learn from the Old Testament and the New Testament that tells us we are not only animals?

5. Read 10:20 – What does the proverb mean to you?

6. Read 11:1 – This wise saying is often quoted. Read also Proverbs 11:24. What do these verses say to you?

7. Read 12:1-7 – This is a picture or allegory on aging. Pick out 5 or 6 of the word pictures and relate how they describe an aging person?

8. Read 12:13 – What are some ways we can “fear God and keep His commandments?

Your questions on Ecclesiastes...

Start reading Song of Songs ...