



Let's Talk It Over

Pastor will be preaching on Ecclesiastes which deals with Solomon wrestling with the meaning of life in a fallen, and therefore frequently confusing and frustrating world -- just like the one we live in.

Reflecting on Eccl. 7:13-20

Navigating Life's Choppy Waters

Ecclesiastes 7:13-20

Sunday, July 23, 2017

I. Will religion smooth out the rough waters? (7:14)

- A. Most try to smooth the waters by coming to God because they are looking for a _____.
- B. We assume God wants the waters _____.
- C. Experience shows that _____ doesn't always smooth things.

II. Two huge destructive waves (7:15)

- A. Don't be "_____" - trusting in your religion, or smarts, falsely. (7:16)
1. It is _____ (doesn't work).
 2. It is _____.
 3. It is _____.
- B. Since there are no guarantees, should we throw away restraint? (7:17)
- C. Avoid the _____. (7:18)

Holding onto both (refer to 16-17, balanced religion and morality)

God is in charge, so we don't have to be _____.

III. We are all in the same boat. (7:20)

- A. No one is perfectly _____.
- B. Sin touches everything you do, _____.
1. Goes against the grain of our society.
 2. "I'm okay, you're okay."
 3. Spiritually sensitive people realize they sin (gossip) like everyone else. (7:21)

Q1. What are we taught about God in v13-14?
Q2. What are we taught about mankind in v13-14?

Q3. What does it mean that God made something crooked? What does it say about His sovereign control?

Q4. In what ways have you observed the same things that Solomon mentions in v15?

Q5. How does the apparent balance seen in v16-17 compare to the practical truth in the words of Jesus in Matthew 5:20; 23:27-18 & Lk 7:44-47?

Q6. How would you express in your own words what is being taught in v16-18?

Q7. How would being "over-righteous" (v16 NIV, "overly righteous" ESV) compare with what Jesus warns against in Mt 5:20; Mt 23?

Q8. When God judges a person's heart motives (Heb 4:12), what will He find (Jer 17:9&10)? What then should we ask (Ps 139:23&24)?

Q9. How does the thought of not being "overwicked" (v17 NIV, "overly wicked" ESV) compare with the NT teaching in Rom 6:6-13; Gal 6:7-8; 1 John 1:8)?

Q10. How would you compare the teaching of v20 with...

- Psa 130:3
- Psa 143:2
- Pro 20:9
- Isa 53:6
- Rom 3:23
- Jas 3:2
- 1 John 1:8-10

NOTE: Isaiah 43:2-4, 7 - Don't let the storms win!

This Week in the Word

Before each day's study be sure to talk to the Author; ask Him to give you insight to His Word. Read the passage from several different versions. Pray Psalm 119:18 & 27 as you begin daily.

Preparing for 7/30/17
Eccl 8:11-17 - Past Finding Out

Day 1: Read Eccl 8:11-17.

Q1. What observations are made in v10-13 about the destiny of the wicked?

Q2. How do the observations in 8:10-13 highlight people's need for the gospel of Jesus Christ?

Day 2: Read Eccl 8:11-17 in a different translation.

Q3. Compare 8:12 with Pro 1:7

Q4. Compare 8:14 with Malachi 3:13-4:3.

Day 3: Read Eccl 8:11-17 in a different translation.

Q5. Compare 8:14 with 2 Peter 3:8-10.

Q6. Compare 8:15 with Matthew 6:25-34.

Day 4: Read Eccl 8:11-17 in a different translation.

Q7. How does 8:14 build upon, amplify or reinforce the earlier message of 7:15?

Q8. How does 8:15 build upon, amplify or reinforce the earlier message of 2:24-25?

Day 5: Read Eccl 8:11-17 in a different translation.

Q9. What human limitations are highlighted in 8:16-17?

Q10. ♥ How does your search for answers to life's problems affect your relationship with God? How easy is it for you to trust Him when the answers are unattainable? What can be done to develop such trust?

Sonrise offers a variety of small groups that meet during the week in various members homes.

We encourage you to join others in a discussion of this morning's message.

See Pastor Phil at the south exit.