

# SURVEY OF ECCLESIASTES

For the Man of God

9. Consider each of the following passages:
  - a. From where does the ability to enjoy this life for what it is come? (2:24-26; 9:7-10)
    - ... This also I have seen that it is from the hand of God. (2:24)

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9. Consider each of the following passages:
  - b. Solomon describes a life filled with peaks and valleys, good and evil, blessings and hardships, all dictated by circumstance. (3:1-9) Why does man seek for a deeper meaning and where alone can the answer be found? (3:11-15)
    - "He has also set eternity in their heart..." (3:11)
    - "... for God has so worked that men should fear Him" (3:14)

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9. Consider each of the following passages:

- c. How can one find peace amid the injustices considered? (3:16-17; 8:12-13)
  - "God will judge both the righteous man and the wicked man." (3:17)
  - "It will be well for those who fear God... But it will not be well for the evil man." (8:12-13; 2 Cor. 5:10)

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9. Consider each of the following passages:

d. List some warnings found in 5:1-7?

- Be careful when approaching the house of God
- Be prepared to listen, not offer vain sacrifices
- Consider your words carefully
- Take care to pay your vows. It is better not to vow than to vow and not pay it.

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9. Consider each of the following passages:
  - e. Why are the godly not overly concerned with hardships and unfairness in this life?  
(5:18-20)
    - "... because God keeps him occupied with the gladness of his heart."

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10. In the first half of chapter seven we see several statements that seem a bit counterintuitive to the human mind (death/birth, mourning/feasting, sorrow/laughter, rebuke/singing). What possible advantage could there be in these negative times? (v. 13-29)

- Consider God's purposes. Enjoy the good days, learn from the bad. (v. 13-14)
- Guard against self-righteousness and wickedness alike. Don't wear your feelings on your sleeve. (v. 15-17, 21-22)
- Seek wisdom, but realize there are things we will never understand (v. 18-19 & 23-25)
- The truly upright and righteous will be in the minority. (v. 27-29)

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11. List a few New Testament passages that would apply and help us find value here?

- Mt. 5:4... "Blessed are those who mourn"
- 2 Cor. 7:10... Godly sorrow leads to repentance.
- Rom. 11:33... God's purposes are unsearchable and unfathomable.
- Rom. 12:2-3... Humble. Practicing sound judgement.
- Rom. 12:10-18... Be devoted to brotherly love.

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"The Conclusion of the Matter..." 11:9-12:14

12. As we enjoy the good gifts and labors which are God-given, what knowledge should temper our behavior "in the days of our youth"?

- "... Yet know that God will bring you to judgment for all these things." (11:9)
- "... because childhood and the prime of life are fleeting." (11:10)



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“The Conclusion of the Matter...” 11:9-12:14

13. What is the message of the first seven verses of chapter twelve?

- In view of the first eleven chapters and the futility of all things “under the sun”, Solomon concludes that one should begin in his youth to live with God ever in mind.
- Life will take its toll on the body. Without a godly purpose for it all, the preacher determines that the short life here is utterly meaningless. (v. 8)

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“The Conclusion of the Matter...” 11:9-12:14

14. And, of course, what is Solomon’s final conclusion?

- After careful consideration, stemming from a desire to discover what truly matters and where the answers can be found to life greatest questions, the Preacher found only one source of meaning and purpose to it all. “Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole *duty* of man.”
- We will be judged for our use of the time we are given.

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“The Conclusion of the Matter...” 11:9-12:14

## 15. Lessons from Ecclesiastes?

- Life goes on
- Messy by design
- A legacy that matters
- 1 Cor. 15:19