

ECCLESIASTES 10

- REVIEW...

to

all

- It

- o Under the Sun...
 - The PREACHER [Solomon] - wrote let us know...
 - Life is EMPTY [vanity] - everything UNDER the sun has NO purpose...
 - He tried EVERYTHING - but found it was grasping for the WIND... seemed like there was something there - but he always walked away EMPTY handed!
 - o Everybody dies...

- Solomon did NOT know what God expected - how much GOOD did a person need to do...
- When he added to that - everyone goes through the same TRIALS - and everyone DIES...
- He concluded NOTHING mattered - if someone is good or bad - the END is the same...
- This is what caused men to be EVIL - even CRAZY - because there is NO hope!
- o Enjoy life...
 - Solomon concluded it was best to just ENJOY life...
 - EAT - DRINK - wear CLEAN clothes - get MARRIED [miserable life] - and WORK hard...
 - But as he thought about this - he realized life is UNFAIR...
 - The FASTEST do not always win - the SMARTEST are not always rich...
 - He saw life as decided by TIME and CHANCE - then we DIE - this also is VANITY!
- No ANSWERS ...
 - o 1st - Little mistake... vs. 1-4
 - No more options...
 - Solomon had exhausted his wisdom - there was nowhere else to look...
 - He realized that he had FAILED in his mission to find MEANING in life...
 - The WISEST man ever - could not answer the MOST important question...
 - Which is why he turns a sad corner - to address his legacy...
 - He did a lot of GOOD in his life - but he would be remembered for his FAILURE!
 - Little Folly... vs. 1
 - Dead flies putrefy the perfumers ointment and cause it to give off a foul odor.
 - So does a little folly to one respected for wisdom and honor!
 - Very EXPENSIVE [נִקְרָ] perfume will [hiphil] STINK if flies [זְבִיב] die in it...
 - [מָ] in the same way it only takes a LITTLE [מְעַט] mistake to ruin a WISE reputation...
 - Solomon realized that for ALL of his WISDOM and KNOWLEDGE...
 - What he was going to be remembered for - was what he did NOT do...
 - He could NOT find the MEANING of life - he did NOT know what God expects from us!
 - When we think about King David - we remember Bathsheba...
 - When we think about Peter - we remember the THREE denials...
 - When we think about Solomon - we remember he did NOT have the answer!
 - It is SAD but TRUE that we remember mistakes more than victories...
 - We can do a THOUSANDS things right - but people will remember the ONE we did WRONG...
 - The GOOD news is that Jesus chooses to FORGET all the BAD things we have done...
 - And He ONLY remembers that we put our FAITH in Him!
 - Hebrews 10:17 - "Their sins and...I will remember no more."
 - Everyone knows... vs. 2-3
 - A wise mans heart is at his right hand - but a fools heart at his left!
 - Even when a fool walks along the way he lacks wisdom.
 - And he shows everyone that he is a fool!
 - The heart [לֵב] of a WISE [חָכָם] man knows which way to go [right way]
 - But the FOOL [בְּטוֹל] does NOT know where to go [left]
 - [גַּם] Even as he is WALKING - his heart [לֵב] is still EMPTY...
 - His look of confusion and doubt - lets [sequential] EVERYONE [כָּל] know he is a FOOL...
 - Solomon understood that his FAILURE was obvious to anyone who was watching!
 - How many times have we been looking for a particular address...
 - And we get that BLANK stare on our face - we know we are LOST!
 - People can go through life PRETENDING like they have the ANSWERS...
 - They may do INTERVIEWS - call themselves INFLUENCERS [king]
 - But we all know just by looking at their MESSED up lives - they do NOT have a clue...

- They are LOST - and we all KNOW it!
- Rejected... vs. 4
 - If the spirit of the ruler rises against you do not leave your post.
 - For conciliation pacifies great offenses!
 - IF [אָ] the spirit of the [הַ] KING [מֶלֶךְ] gets ANGRY with you [rises up]
 - PLEASE [jussive] do NOT walk away from him...
 - Because [כִּי] being patient can HEAL [מְרַפֵּא] great SIN [חַטָּא]
 - Solomon knew his FAILURE would make people want to WALK away...
 - He is asking for them to instead be PATIENT - and HELP him heal!
 - **Galatians 6:1** - "If a man is overtaken in any trespass - you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness!"
 - When people make MISTAKES - or do NOT have the answers...
 - It is easy for us to REJECT them - and just WALK away...
 - But that is NOT the best solution - we should reach out to them and HELP them HEAL!
 - **Galatians 6:2** - "Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ."
- o 2nd - Poor leadership... vs. 5-10
 - Rewarding folly... 5-6
 - There is an evil I have seen under the sun as an error proceeding from the ruler:
 - Folly is set in great dignity - while the rich sit in a lowly place.
 - Solomon admitted he had seen an EVIL [רָעָה] in this world [under the sun]
 - It was a MISTAKE that came from the MOUTH [face] of the [הַ] KING [מֶלֶךְ]
 - He gave [niph'al] the [הַ] FOOL [כֹּסֵף] - great AUTHORITY...
 - BUT [וְ] those who were RICH [in wisdom] - he ignored [sit down]!
 - Solomon did NOT listen to those who gave him the WORD - **Deuteronomy 17:17**
 - He ended up listening to those who gave him the WISDOM of the WORLD...
 - Which led to him having a THOUSAND wives - who turned his heart from God - **I Kings 11:4**
 - There are only TWO sources for WISDOM – from ABOVE or from BELOW...
 - ANY wisdom that is NOT from the Word – is NOT from ABOVE...
 - And people who REJECT God – and put their TRUST in the WISDOM of this world...
 - End up building their life on an UNSTABLE foundation...
 - So that when the storms of life come – their foundation crumbles...
 - They are left CONFUSED – and LOST – as to why their life is in ruins!
 - **Matthew 7:26** - "Like a foolish man who built his house on the sand."
 - Backwards country... vs. 7
 - I have seen servants on horses - while princes walk on the ground like servants!
 - When FOLLY is rewarded - it causes a nation to fall apart - it destroys a country...
 - Servants ride horses - while princes walk as servants [backwards]!
 - When Rehoboam [son of Solomon] rejected the counsel of the older [wise] men...
 - And instead listened to his younger [foolish] friends - **I Kings 12:8**
 - It divided the nation of Israel - and it would NOT be reunited until 1948!
 - Sadly - when people do NOT have the RIGHT answer to life [Jesus]
 - All they have to fall back on is their own ideas...
 - And that brings CONFUSION - and DIVISION - that can take a LONG time to HEAL!
 - Reciprocity... vs. 8-9
 - He who digs a pit will fall into it - whoever breaks through a wall will be bitten by a serpent!
 - He who quarries stones may be hurt by them. He who splits wood may be endangered by it!
 - Solomon realized he made a MISTAKE in listening to FOOLS [rejecting the Word]
 - And gives FOUR examples that when we do - we end up HURTING ourselves...

- FIRST - the one who DIGS a ditch [listens to the world] - will FALL into it...
- SECOND - the one who BREAKS down the walls [rules meant to keep us safe]
- Will end up getting bitten by the SERPENT [שָׂרָפ] - **Genesis 3:1**
- THIRD - the one who PULLS out rocks - might be CRUSHED by it...
- FOURTH - the one who CHOPS down the trees - might have it FALL on him!
- God told Adam and Eve NOT to eat of the Tree of Knowledge - **Genesis 2:17**
- God gave them that RULE [wall] - to keep them safe...
- But they REJECTED the Word of God - and listened to the WORLD...
- As a result - they dug a ditch [sin] and fell in - then were BITTEN by the SNAKE [satan]
- The JUDGEMENT of God [rock] fell on them - and the Tree they wanted killed them!
- The greatest LIE that satan has been using from the beginning...
- Is that we should NOT listen to GOD - we should listen to the WORLD...
- He tries to convince us there is something AMAZING that we are missing...
- If only we would REJECT what God said - we could find it...
- And people have believed this LIE for thousands of years...
- They keep falling into the same SIN [pit] - keep breaking the RULES [snake]
- Only to be JUDGED by God [rock] - and find their CHOICE [tree] kills them!
- Hard life... vs. 10
 - If the ax is dull and one does not sharpen the edge.
 - Then he must use more strength - but wisdom brings success!
 - Just as a DULL ax require more EFFORT to cut with...
 - So also the man who REJECTS the WISDOM of God...
 - Solomon realized he was just making his life HARDER by NOT listening to the Lord!
 - God made life so easy - just FOLLOW Him - OBEY His Word...
 - But we convince ourselves that we have a BETTER plan - an EASIER way...
 - Only to find out that we have made things a LOT harder than they should have been!
- o 3rd - Foolish words... vs. 11-14
 - The tongue... vs. 11
 - A serpent may bite when it is not charmed. The babblers are no different!
 - Snake charmers WHISPER to the serpent to keep it from biting them...
 - But IF [אִם] the [הַ]SERPENT [שָׂרָפ] bites before he has a chance to SPEAK...
 - Then it means NOTHING [אֵין] - to CONTROL [בָּעֵל] the tongue [לְשׁוֹן]
 - Solomon realized that if the SERPENT [satan] was going to bite him anyways...
 - Then there was NO benefit to having WISE words!
 - While people can make EXCUSES for their SIN...
 - Their words can do NOTHING to take away their SIN!
 - Madness... vs. 12-13
 - The words of a wise mans mouth are gracious - but the lips of a fool shall swallow him up!
 - The words of his mouth begin with foolishness - and the end of his talk is raving madness!
 - While the WORDS of the WISE - will give GRACE [חֵן]
 - The LIPS of the FOOL [לִפְתֵּי] only seek to DESTROY [לְהַרְסָה]
 - What begins with FOOLISH words - ends with EVIL [רָע] BOASTING [לְהַלֵּל]
 - Solomon might have started with the right MOTIVE - to impart GRACE...
 - But somewhere along the way PRIDE found its way in...
 - And he began to look for RECOGNITION - making his words FOOLISH!
 - The difference between WISDOM and FOLLY is not necessarily the WORDS...
 - It can also be the MOTIVE behind the WORDS...
 - True WISDOM seeks to give those who hear it GRACE...

- **FOOLISH words only seek to bring GLORY to the person who is speaking them!**
- **Ephesians 4:29** - "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth - but what is good for necessary edification that it may impart grace to the hearers."
- Too many words... vs. 14
 - A fool also multiplies words. No man knows what is to be.
 - Who can tell him what will be after him?
 - The [ה] FOOL [פֶּסֶל] is FULL of words...
 - Yet he does NOT know [יָדַע] what the FUTURE holds...
 - He does NOT know what will happen after he dies - because NO one can tell [hiphil] him...
 - Solomon recognized how FOOLISH it was to make assumptions...
 - Because no matter how WISE he thought he was - he could NOT see tomorrow!
 - **We like to THINK we are in CONTROL of our lives...**
 - **We make PLANS - and even tell others what they NEED to do...**
 - **But the simple truth is we have NO idea what is going to happen!**
 - **James 4:13** - "You who say: Today or tomorrow we will... make a profit - [but you] do not know what will happen tomorrow."
- o 4th - Foolish nation... vs. 15-20
 - Lost... vs. 15
 - The labor of fools wearies them for they do not even know how to go to the city!
 - The WORK of the [ה] FOOL [פֶּסֶל] makes them really [piel] TIRED...
 - Because they are really LOST - and do NOT even see [יָדַע] how to go to the CITY...
 - CITIES are the easiest thing to find - they can be SEEN from miles away...
 - Solomon was TIRED of being LOST - not being able to find the ANSWER!
 - I got a TEXT from a university student talking about her PHILOSOPHY [φιλοσοφία] class...
 - She was disheartened as they used worldly WISDOM to try and justify SIN [abortion]
 - It was EXHAUSTING as they looked for answers - but were obviously LOST!
 - **Romans 1:22** - "Claiming to be wise [σοφός] they instead became utter fools." [NLT]
 - Inexperienced... vs. 16-17
 - Woe to you O land - when your king is a child - and your princes feast in the morning!
 - Blessed are you O land - when your king is the son of nobles.
 - And your princes feast at the proper time - for strength and not for drunkenness!
 - WOE [אֵי] to the nation that has an IMMATURE [child] king [מֶלֶךְ]
 - Whose LEADERS like to have FEASTS early in the morning [rather than working]
 - But HAPPY is the nation that has a KING who has been tried by FIRE [חֶרֶב]
 - And whose LEADERS feast at the proper times - because being DRUNK is NOT the answer!
 - When king Xerxes had a FEAST for 180 days - **Esther 1:4**
 - The end result was a drunken request for the queen to appear [naked]
 - When she refused [rightly] - he ended up banishing her in ANGER!
 - **Esther 2:1** - "But after Xerxes anger had subsided he began thinking about [the queen]."
 - **The Bible does NOT say we cannot drink - it does say it is SIN to be drunk - Ephesians 5:18**
 - **Because we will inevitably regret the choices we make!**
 - Lazy... vs. 18-19
 - Because of laziness the building decays - and through idleness of hands the house leaks!
 - A feast is made for laughter - and wine makes merry - but money answers everything!
 - When someone is LAZY - they do NOT [niph'al] maintain a building...
 - And because they refuse to get to WORK - the roof will LEAK [דָּלַף]
 - In the same way - it is TRUE that people LAUGH as long as there is RICE [לֶחֶם]
 - And life seems GOOD when there is something to DRINK [wine]

- But if they do NOT get to WORK - they will NOT make MONEY!
- We learn from experience [fire] that everything has a PROPER time...
- While it might be more FUN to go out to EAT - go to PARTIES...
- Those things are NOT going to pay the BILLS - we need to WORK!
- No cursing... vs. 20
 - Do not curse the king - even in your thought. Do not curse the rich even in your bedroom.
 - For a bird of the air may carry your voice - and a bird in flight may tell the matter!
 - BUT [בָּרַךְ] - PLEASE [jussive] do NOT even THINK of CURSING [פִּיל] the KING [מֶלֶךְ]
 - Or when you are in BED - CURSE [פִּיל] those who are RICH...
 - Because [כִּי] someone [bird] might HEAR - and go and tell your MASTER [בֹּעֵז]!
 - Solomon knew people were TALKING about him...
 - He had FAILED - his WISDOM had NOT given him the answer...
 - He might have even earned a reputation as a being immature [drunk] - **Ecclesiastes 2:3**
 - But the people would be WISE to be careful what they THOUGHT...
 - Even if they were ONLY saying things in their bedroom to their SPOUSE...
 - They never knew when a little BIRD [kids - servant] might overhear...
 - And their words would get back to the KING - their MASTER!
- In the bedroom...
 - When the king of Syria thought he had SPY in his court...
 - He challenged his servants to see who was betraying him...
 - Because every decision he made - the king of Israel seemed to know about...
 - But it was NOT a disloyal servant - it was the prophet Elisha [and the God of Israel]
 - **II Kings 6:12** - "None my lord O king. But Elisha the prophet who is in Israel tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom."
 - We all know people like Solomon - those who are LOST...
 - We live in a world full of leaders who are INEXPERIENCED - and LAZY...
 - But we do need to be careful what we THINK - because it will come out...
 - We need to be cautious what we SAY - even in our secret [I am just telling you]
 - Because even if no one else knows - God is still there listening...
 - We are NOT called to spread GOSSIP [διάβολος]
 - These are people who are BLINDED by their SIN - and need help finding the ANSWER...
 - We are called to come along side of them - and point them to Jesus!