

Day 5: The Work of God

Read Ecclesiastes 7.13-14. What does it say about who God is? What does it tell you about the work of God in your life? Stop and consider what God is doing in your life through your present circumstances. You will discover that He is trying to accomplish something that you are not able to accomplish on your own. He is changing you from the inside out.

This life is more than your business, your relationships, and your plans. This life is about what God is doing in and through you. Regardless of what you are going through today, can you see God working His will in you? Are you willing to submit to His Lordship and let Him guide you?

Life... With The End In Mind

Ecclesiastes 7:1-14

This passage helps us think about three things: The end, our character, and the work of God.

Let us consider these things one by one.

1. Living in the Now

Ecclesiastes 7.1-8

- What sorts of things have eternal value?

2. Shaping our Character

Ecclesiastes 7.3-4

- How does an understanding of life through Christ develop our character?

3. Considering the Work of God

Ecclesiastes 7.13-14

- What is God trying to accomplish through my present circumstances?

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...and he opened to us the Scriptures (Luke 24:32)

Day 1: Living Beyond the Now

Read Ecclesiastes 7.1-4. We do too many things thinking of the now. The Bible encourages us to see beyond this present time and into eternity; this is what these verses talk about.

Few people pause in their fast lives to think about the future; the end results of the many things they are doing. Have you ever been so caught up in the now that you have forgotten what is really important? Of the many things you are trying to accomplish, which ones have a reward that goes beyond this present time?

Day 2: Tapping Into the Eternal

Read the same passage you read yesterday and think, how do I look into eternity? Every time you think about eternity you need to start with God. There is no eternity without Him. The Bible says, "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." People have different ideas about God and also misconceptions about who He is. Do you know Him?

As you think about eternity today consider your own life. Jesus spoke about eternal life in almost every one of His teachings. God wants us to consider eternity by knowing Him and the life that is in Christ. Do you know Him?

Day 3: Building Character

Read Ecclesiastes 7.8-12. What does this passage say about life and character? In our society, character is left out. Think about all that is glorified today, but doesn't build character (money, fame, celebrities). Their lifestyles reflect a bankruptcy of character, moral values, identity, etc. Followers of Christ are called to build character more than anybody else. Why? Because... we are a reflection of God!

In this passage we can see that few things are more important than building a good name (testimony), having wisdom, and learning to see life through different eyes. An understanding of life through the eyes of Christ, even in the suffering, builds character. How? It does it by setting us in a position of dependence on God. He is a God you can depend on if you know Him.

Day 4: Building Character through Sorrow

Today I invite you to meditate in Ecclesiastes 7.10. Think about the many times you have asked yourself this same question. It usually comes to mind when we are experiencing trials or problems. None of us is exempt from suffering. Suffering has occupied the mind of thinkers and philosophers for all time. The Bible has much to say about suffering, but it especially seems to be an opportunity to come near God. He understands suffering. He knows life is hard. Suffering and sorrow makes us grow near Him because it makes us depend more on Him. Are there circumstances in your life, present or past that are an invitation to take refuge in Him? Can you trust Him with your past, present and future sufferings?