

## Ecclesiastes 5 - changing gears

1st politics - vs. 8-9 - corruption seems to be a natural consequence of politics.

2nd - greed vs. contentment - vs. 10-20

vs. 10 - love of money and possessions will not satisfy.

vs. 11 - when you get riches there's more people around to pay for.

vs. 12 - a person who works will be able to sleep, but a person who loves riches will stay awake at night thinking about it.

vs. 13-17 - an evil under the sun - keeping riches (greedy hoarding) and then they get lost and he has nothing, not to enjoy, not to leave to the next generation. all his work amounts to nothing.

vs. 18 - good and fitting to eat and drink and to enjoy results of labor - heritage - what leaves to others.

vs. 19 - gift of God - enjoying work and food and using wealth properly -

vs. 20 - he won't worry and hoard, because he'll be busy with enjoying what he does.

6 - vs. 2-6 - an evil for a person to work and have riches and wealth and honor and can have everything but doesn't enjoy it - even if he lives to be old and has a hundred children - if he isn't satisfied with goodness or doesn't have a decent burial (sign of a respectful family and honor in the community), then he was better off if he was never born.

vs. 7-8 - paraphrase - if you only work or accomplish for what it will get you, then your soul will not be satisfied with the results - either the labor or what the labor buys.

it doesn't matter if it's education or position or foolishness or poverty or riches - who knows how to walk before the living - do we?

vs. 9 - paraphrase - what you have is better than what you think you want.

vs. 10 - 1. God is in charge 2. people are not. 3. can't argue or bargain with God.

vs. 11 - since there's many things that are just vanity, how are we the better for getting what we think we want?

vs. 12 - who knows what will be good for us?

who knows what the future will bring?

who knows what will happen after we're gone?

## Chapter 7 - moderation and considerations

vs. 1 - protect your good name - good perfume - how do you smell

vs. 1-6 - consider death and funeral homes while you're still alive because that puts thing in perspective.

ignoring your end with the merriment of fools is vanity - like crackling of thorns under a pot. - burn up quick leave nothing. - burning leaves.

vs. 7-11 - what sort of things to consider in the funeral home

vs. 7 - stay honest and honorable.

vs. 8 - finish what you do; be patient

vs. 9 - don't fly off the handle

vs. 10 - don't look back to the good old days because they probably weren't that good and they're all gone - all we have are these days.

vs. 11 - wisdom is a good thing to give along with a material inheritance.

vs. 11-12 - wisdom protects from pitfalls in life such as pride, doubt, disillusionment, resentment, bitterness - wisdom give life

vs. 13 - God is in charge and we can't change that or what he wants to do.

vs. 14 - God gives both what we'd call good and bad - so we don't know what's coming up so we need to prepare by living a life of contentment and wisdom.

vs. 15 - he's seen good people die young and bad people live long.

vs. 16 - don't get self-righteous or impressed by your wisdom

Proverbs 25:16 and Romans 12:3.

vs. 17 - don't be overly wicked (intentionally) or foolish

vs. 18 - don't forget this - fear of God will help your escape all 4 above.

vs. 19 - wisdom brings strength - strength to handle painful tension of unanswered questions.

strength to avoid the pitfalls of gullibility.

20. everybody sins so nobody's perfect.

vs. 21-22 - don't pay attention to everything you hear people say because it might be something bad and you've said bad things about others before.

vs. 23-25 - more about the search - wisdom was hard to find - so he set out to find out about everything.

vs. 26-28 - one thing he learned is that his many wives and concubines didn't bring him a sense of contentment or satisfaction.

vs. 29 - man was made upright, but they've turned away from that and looked in all the wrong places - problems are not above us - they're within us.

Three questions about our wisdom:

1. is our wisdom providing a balance from extremism
2. is our wisdom keeping us strong and stable under the pressures of life.
3. is our wisdom giving us insight to reject bad and lying influences.