

ECCLESIASTES

Ecccl. 5:8-20



Eccl. 5:8 If thou seest the oppression of the poor, and violent perverting of judgment and justice in a province, marvel not at the matter: for *he that is* higher than the highest regardeth; and *there be* higher than they.
9 Moreover the profit of the earth is for all: the king *himself* is served by the field.

10 He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this *is* also vanity.

11 When goods increase, they are increased that eat them: and what good *is there* to the owners thereof, saving the beholding *of them* with their eyes?

12 The sleep of a labouring man *is* sweet, whether he eat little or much: but the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep.

13 There is a sore evil *which* I have seen **under the sun**, *namely*, riches kept for the owners thereof to their hurt.

14 But those riches perish by evil travail: and he begetteth a son, and *there is* nothing in his hand.

15 As he came forth of his mother's womb, naked shall he return to go as he came, and shall take nothing of his labour, which he may carry away in his hand.

16 And this also *is* a sore evil, *that* in all points as he came, so shall he go: and what profit hath he that hath laboured for the wind?

17 All his days also he eateth in darkness, and *he hath* much sorrow and wrath with his sickness.

18 Behold *that* which I have seen: *it is* good and comely *for one* to eat and to drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labour that he taketh under the sun all the days of his life, which God giveth him: for it *is* his portion.

19 Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; this *is* the gift of God.

20 For he shall not much remember the days of his life; because God answereth *him* in the joy of his heart.

This evening, we continue on a wonderful, spiritual journey through the Book of Ecclesiastes, known also as “The Preacher.”

I. THE PREACHER’S SUBJECT, 1:1-11

- A. The Preacher, 1:1
- B. The Problem, 1:2-3
- C. The Process, 1:4-11

II. THE PREACHER’S SERMON, 1:12-10:20

- A. Things He Had Sought, 1:12—2:26
- B. Things He Had Seen, 3:1—6:12
 - 1. The Problem of Time Without Eternity, 3:1-11
 - 2. The Problem of a New Leaf Without a New Life, 3:12-17
 - 3. The Problem of Mortality Without Immortality, 3:18-22
 - 4. The Problem of Might Without Right, 4:1-3
 - 5. The Problem of Prosperity Without Posterity, 4:4-12
 - 6. The Problem of Sovereignty Without Sagacity, 4:13-16
 - 7. The Problem of Religion Without Reality, 5:1-7

a. The Value of Silence, 5:1-3

(1) Tread Softly in the House of God, 5:1a

(2) Talk Sparingly in the House of God, 5:1b-3

(a) The Careless Sacrifice of the Foolish Man, 5:1b

(b) The Common Sense of the Foresighted Man, 5:2

i. The Nature of His Caution, 5:2a

ii. The Need for His Caution, 5:2b

(c) The Continuous Speech of the Foolish Man, 5:3

i. How He Dabbles, 5:3a

ii. How He Babbles, 5:3b

b. The Vow Once Spoken, 5:4-7

(1) What Must Be Paid, 5:4

(a) The Requirement, 5:4a

(b) The Reason, 5:4b

(2) What Might Be Preferred, 5:5

(3) What Must Be Perceived, 5:6

(a) The Kind of Vow Indicated, 5:6a

(b) The Kind of Vengeance Indicated, 5:6b

(4) What Might Be Prevented, 5:7

(a) The Cause of Much Folly, 5:7a-b

i. Beware of Too Many Visions, 7:7a

ii. Beware of Too Much Verbosity, 7:7b

(b) The Cure of Much Folly, 5:7c

8. The Problem of Wealth Without Health, 5:8-20

a. Words About the Desire for Riches, 5:8-11

(1) Wealth Acquired, 5:8-9

(a) By Injustice, 5:8

i. The Woe, 5:8a “If thou seest the oppression of the poor, and violent perverting of judgment and justice in a province, marvel not at the matter...”

- “Politicians” are ruthless, and their corruptible actions should not surprise anyone.
- The recent rioting is a by-product of a failing society.

- The lack of discipline, no fear of God, broken families and humanistic school systems are producing politicians that are more concerned about liberal agendas than the future of our nation.

Prov. 28:15 As a roaring lion, and a ranging bear; **so is a wicked ruler over the poor people.**

Prov. 29:2 **When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.**

- We need to pray for all leaders, regardless of political affiliations.

1 Tim. 2:1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, **supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;**

2 **For kings, and for all that are in authority;** that we may lead a **quiet and peaceable life** in all godliness and honesty.

ii. The Warning, 5:8b “...for *he that is higher than the highest* regardeth; and *there be higher than they.*”

Rom. 13:1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. **For there is no power but of God:** the powers that be are ordained of God.

- Verse 8 contains three perpetual problems in society:

1. The constant “oppression of the poor;”

2. The “violent perverting of judgment;”

3. The “violent perverting of justice.”

(b) By Integrity, 5:9

i. The Principle Inculcated, 5:9a
“Moreover the profit of the earth is for all...”

- The Lord Jesus Christ is THE greatest equalizer among mankind:

Gal. 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

ii. The Prince Included, 5:9b
“...the king *himself* is served by the field.”

- Regardless of status, all mankind is dust, and needs physical nourishment.

Job 34:15 **All flesh shall perish together, and man shall turn again unto dust.**

- Whether buried in a golden sarcophagus, or a pine box, humanity is equal in death.

Eccl. 3:20 All go unto one place; all **are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.**

(2) Wealth Accumulated, 5:10-11

(a) The Limitation of Wealth, 5:10

Eccl. 5:10 He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this *is* also vanity.

1 Tim. 6:9 But **they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare,** and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

10 For **the love of money is the root of all evil:** which while **some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.**

(b) The Liability of Wealth, 5:11a “When goods increase, they are increased that eat them...”

- Wealth produces extravagance, which attracts an “entourage” of “friends,” and creates added expenses.

Prov. 19:4 **Wealth maketh many friends**; but the poor is separated from his neighbour.

6 Many will intreat the favour of the prince: and **every man is a friend to him that giveth gifts.**

(c) The Lamentation of Wealth, 5:11b

“...and what good *is there* to the owners thereof, saving the beholding *of them* with their eyes?”

- The “lust of the eyes” provides little satisfaction, with the exception of just “seeing.”

Eccl. 1:8 All things *are* full of labour; man cannot utter *it*: **the eye is not satisfied with seeing**, nor the ear filled with hearing.

Eccl. 4:8 There is one *alone*, and *there is* not a second; yea, he hath neither child nor brother: yet *is there* no end of all his labour; **neither is his eye satisfied with riches**; neither *saith he*, For whom do I labour, and bereave my soul of good? This *is* also vanity, yea, it *is* a sore travail.

Prov. 27:20 Hell and destruction are never full; so **the eyes of man are never satisfied.**

2 Pet. 2:14 Having **eyes full of adultery**, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: **an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:**

Col. 3:5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and **covetousness, which is idolatry:**

b. Words About the Deceitfulness of Riches, 5:12-20

(1) How Wealth Disturbs, 5:12

Eccl. 5:12 **The sleep of a labouring man is sweet**, whether he eat little or much: but **the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep.**

- A troubled heart creates restlessness and deters sleep.
- Contentment in the Lord produces sweet sleep.

Psa. 4:8 **I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep**: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety.

Psa. 127:2 *It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so* **he giveth his beloved sleep.**

Prov. 3:24 When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: **yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet.**

(2) How Wealth Disappears, 5:13-14

(a) The Reasons, 5:13

Eccl. 5:13 There is a sore evil *which* I have seen **under the sun**, *namely*, riches kept for the owners thereof to their hurt.

- The irony of selfishness in contrast to giving seems contradictory to the unspiritual.

Prov. 11:24 **There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth**; and *there is* that withholdeth more than is meet, but *it tendeth* to poverty.

25 The liberal soul shall be made fat: and **he that watereth shall be watered also himself**.

Prov. 13:7 There is that maketh himself rich, yet *hath* nothing: **there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches**.

Psa. 41:1 **Blessed is he that considereth the poor**: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble.

Prov. 19:17 **He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD;** and that which he hath given will he pay him again.

(b) The Result, 5:14

Eccl. 5:14 But those riches perish **by evil travail**: and he begetteth a son, and *there is* nothing in his hand.

Hag. 1:5 Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; **Consider your ways.**

6 Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and **he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes.**

9 **Ye looked for much, and, lo, it came to little**; and when ye brought *it* home, I did blow upon it. **Why?** saith the LORD of hosts. Because of mine house that *is* waste, and ye run every man unto his own house.

(3) How Wealth Derides, 5:15-16

(a) What Does the Rich Man Leave, 5:15

Eccl. 5:15 **As he came forth of his mother's womb, naked shall he return to go as he came**, and shall take nothing of his labour, which he may carry away in his hand.

- The futility of reality – the finality of the grave.

(b) Why Does the Rich Man Labor, 5:16

Eccl. 5:16 And this also *is* a sore evil, *that* in all points **as he came, so shall he go: and what profit hath he that hath laboured for the wind?**

(4) How Wealth Darkens, 5:17-20

(a) The Misery it Brings, 5:17

Eccl. 5:17 All his days also he eateth in darkness, and *he hath* much sorrow and wrath with his sickness.

(b) The Materialism it Breeds, 5:18-20

i. The Materialist's Narrow Views, 5:18

Eccl. 5:18 Behold *that* which I have seen: *it is* good and comely *for one* to eat and to drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labour that he taketh under the sun all the days of his life, which God giveth him: for *it is* his portion.

ii. The Materialist's Neglected Values, 5:19-20

- What He Forgets, 5:19

Eccl. 5:19 Every man also **to whom God hath given riches and wealth**, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; **this is the gift of God.**

Deut. 8:18 But thou shalt **remember the LORD thy God**: for ***it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth***, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as *it is* this day.

1 Chron. 29:12 Both **riches and honour *come of thee***, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand *is* power and might; and **in thine hand *it is to make great***, and to give strength unto all. ...

14 But who *am* I, and what *is* my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for **all things *come of thee*, and of thine own have we given thee**.

- What He Faces, 5:20

Eccl. 5:20 For he shall not much remember the days of his life; because God answereth *him* in the joy of his heart.

- As Heb. 11 contains positive attributes of faith, leaving out the negative things, so will our memories focus upon the positive as we age and maintain fellowship with the Lord:

Psa. 16:11 Thou wilt shew me the path of life: **in thy presence *is* fulness of joy; at thy right hand *there are* pleasures for evermore**.

Conclusion

Acts 17:24 God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;

25 Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;

26 And **hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth**, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;
27 That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:

28 For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.

