

SEARCHING FOR HAPPINESS

Ecc1 2:1-11

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Solomon the writer of the book of Ecclesiastes
- B. Written to man in general as the lessons to be learned
- C. Enlightens us on the course of our life under the sun 1:3
- D. Solomon writes from his own personal experiences
- E. The theme of the book is Solomon's quest for happiness
- F. Solomon goes as far as possible in four different areas of life in his quest for happiness

DISCUSSION:

I. WISDOM (Practical, human wisdom) Ecc1 1:13-18; 1Ki 4:34

- A. Definition: Skill in using understanding and knowledge
- B. Solomon sought wisdom & knowledge Ecc1 1:13-16; 1Ki 3:9
 - 1. Became the wisest man that ever lived
 - 2. Many came to hear his wisdom 1Ki 4:34
 - 3. Perceived was vexation of the spirit Ecc1 1:14,18
- C. Many today spend their lives in nothing more than seeking knowledge and becoming wise
 - 1. Not saying one should not have secular wisdom
 - 2. But that this alone is not sufficient
- D. Wisdom good but not of lasting value Ecc1 2:13,14,16 the wise man dies same as fool
- E. The wisdom of world is foolishness to God 1Cor 3:19

II. PLEASURE - REVELRY Ecc1 2:1,10

- A. Solomon enjoyed anything his heart desired Ecc1 2:10
 - 1. He had servants, maidens, gardens, orchards, etc
 - 2. Anything popular in that day that he wanted he got
 - 3. All women he wanted 700 wives 300 concubines
 - 4. Considered all vanity & vexation of spirit Ecc1 2:11
- B. How much time, money & energy spent on recreation today
 - 1. 168 hrs in week; 40 on job; 56 sleeping' 21 eating; 4-6 assembled for worship
 - 2. Leaves 45-47 a week, 6 hrs a day on average
 - 3. What do we do with this time
 - 4. Many experiment with immorality, drugs, alcohol, etc to find happiness
- C. We claim we are entitled to some fun and rightly so
 - 1. But true happiness cannot be found in pleasure
 - 2. Wisdom excelleth folly as far as light darkness, yet wisdom will not last Ecc1 2:13-15
- D. Pleasure of the world will choke out the word Lk 8:14

- E. Turn away from those that love pleasure more than God 2Tim 3:2-5

III. WEALTH Ecc1 5:9; 6:2

- A. Wealthier than anyone before him Ecc1 2:9; 1Ki 10:23
 - 1. Silver as common as rock on ground 1Ki 10:27
 - 2. Solomon fed aprox 54,000 a day in his household
 - 3. Yet with all this wealth he wasn't happy
 - 4. Could eat only one meal at a time only wear one suit at a time Ecc1 5:10,11-15
- B. Men wish, even fight for wealth to be happy
 - 1. Many times, we wished for a million dollars
 - 2. The gold rush to Cal, aprox. 50,000 came in 1849
 - 3. Men fought & died for gold, yet Solomon fed more in one day than came to California in one year
- C. Easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for rich man to enter heaven Matt 19:24
- D. What will one give in exchange for his soul Matt 16:26

IV. POWER Ecc1 8:1-5

- A. Solomon most powerful man that ever lived
 - 1. Absolute monarch - had power of life and death
 - 2. When Moses numbered - men above 20 = 25,850 with women and children probably about 3 million
 - 3. This was 500 yrs before Solomon came to power
 - 4. In Solomon's time probably 10 to 15 million people (U.S. pop aprox 280 million) (AL aprox. 5 million)
 - 5. Other kings paid tribute to him also 2Chron 8:7,8
 - 6. Yet Solomon still was not happy
- B. Think of men who have fought to gain power
 - 1. Hittler, Napoleon, etc
 - 2. Napoleon divorced woman he loved and remarried to gain power; Hittler killed millions of Jews
- C. With Solomon's power he couldn't stay death, and neither can we with all the power in the world
 - 1. One event happeneth to them all Ecc1 2:14
 - 2. Appointed unto man once to die Heb 9:27

CONCLUSION:

- A. Solomon more wisdom than any other man, he gratified all pleasures of flesh, had greater wealth than any king, and had more political power than any kingdom
- B. Now, hear his conclusion in chapter 12
 - 1. Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth
 - 2. Fear God and keep his commandments for this is the whole duty of man (this is man's all nkjv)
 - 3. God shall bring every work into judgment with every secret thing whether good or evil.