

05 – Ecclesiastes 7:1-8:17 – Why meaning cannot be found

How do you make sense of life?

Proverbs about ...

... our lack of knowledge about what is going to happen in our life under the sun.

Ecc 6:12 – “For who knows what is good for a person in life, during the few and meaningless days they pass through like a shadow? Who can tell them what will happen under the sun after they are gone?”

Ecc 7:14 – “When times are good, be happy; but when times are bad, consider this: God has made the one as well as the other. Therefore, no one can discover anything about their future.”

Ecc 7:23 “All this I tested by wisdom and I said, I am determined to be wise’– but this was beyond me.”

Ecc 8:7-8 “Since no one knows the future, who can tell someone else what is to come? 8 As no one has power over the wind to contain it, so no one has power over the time of their death. As no one is discharged in time of war, so wickedness will not release those who practise it.”

Ecc 8:17 “then I saw all that God has done. No one can comprehend what goes on under the sun. Despite all their efforts to search it out, no one can discover its meaning. Even if the wise claim they know, they cannot really comprehend it.”

Life is uncertain

... once we are born is that we will die. (Ecc 7:2)

... apart from our certain death ... there is no certainty.

The investigation in summary

Ecc 7:20-29 (graphically)

Verse 20 = answer

Verse 21-22 = the reasons why

Verse 23-25 = the problem

Verse 26-28 = reasons why

Verse 29 = the answer.

1) The problem (Ecc 7:23-25)

Why are we unable to discover what life is about by ourselves?

2) The evidence for his conclusion.

V 21-22, people are bad and so are you

V26-28, men and women just as bad as each other.

3) The answer (v 20 & 29)

“there is no one on earth who is righteous there is no one who does what is right and never sins”

verse 29 ... this is NOT the way it always was, nor was it the way God created us to be.

Obey the king

... to live wisely under a flawed ruler

For us today**1) Impact of sin (on looking for life's purpose)**

... we do not comprehend all the God has done and all that he is doing in his world.

... things do not happening in uniform predicable ways

2) Fear God

... treat him with respect and awe.

3) Give thanks and use well