

## **06 – Ecclesiastes 9-12 – The End of the Matter**

### **Back to the problem of life**

**“What is life about?”**

**Qu: where has it challenged you regarding how you live?**

**Ecc 6:12-8:17 ... our lack of knowledge ... caused by our problem of sin.**

### **Our problem in life**

**1) ...we are ALL finite and we ALL face death.**

**Ecc 9:2, “All share a common destiny. The righteous and the wicked, the good and the bad, the clean and the unclean, those who offer sacrifices and those who do not”.**

**Ecc 9:3, “we join the dead”.**

**2) We lack knowledge of what has happened in the past, what is happening NOW and what will happen in the future.**

**Ecc 9:11-12** “I have seen something else under the sun: The race is not to the swift or the battle to the strong, nor does food come to the wise or wealth to the brilliant or favour to the learned; but time and chance happen to them all. 12 Moreover, no one knows when their hour will come: As fish are caught in a cruel net, or birds are taken in a snare, so people are trapped by evil times that fall unexpectedly upon them.”

### **Where does wisdom fit?**

**Ecc 9:13-12:8 ... examples**

**Ecc 9:17, “the quiet words of the wise are more to be heeded than the shouts of a ruler of fools.”**

**Ecc 11:6, “Sow your seed in the morning, and at evening let your hands not be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will do equally well.”**

**But ... the wisdom of the wise is not always heeded, recognised or remembered.**

**... moving life from youth... towards old age... and then towards death.**

### **The end of the matter**

**“Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind. 14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.”**

### **Ecclesiastes on God**

- **He is not like us... he is eternal**
- **God made everything**
- **God is in heaven we are on earth**

- God made us righteous but we are not now
- God knows everything
- God is the perfect judge of us all
- God is good
- God gives us good gifts and he enables us to enjoy them

### For us today

#### 1) Living in light of God's answer

How do you feel when you read that wise living requires you to respond in this way?

##### a. Pursuing wisdom

God's word is filled with living in God honouring wise ways.

##### b. Fearing God

... respect and reverent awe.

... we will want to listen to him and to obey him.

... worship him

##### c. Keeping his commandments

... worship him with our lives.

If we fear God then we will obey what he says in all things not just the ones we like.

#### 2) God's solution to our problem

Question: How you can live more wisely in your life under the sun? discussion over MT or supper.