

Life Under the Sun: The Message of Ecclesiastes

Lakewood Presbyterian Church

Key Idea: TBA

Lesson 8
Ecclesiastes 8:16-9:9
(7-20-25)

I. THE FOURTH DIVISION IN ECCLESIASTES OUTLINED (8:16-12:14)

A. Broad summary of Solomon's argument:

- (1) Section 1 (1:2-2:26): I can't get no s_____.
- (2) Section II (3:1-5:20): God is exhaustively s_____ over everything.
- (3) Section III (6:1-8:15): God gives e_____ in a vain world.
- (4) Section IV (8:16-12:14): Solomon answers o_____ to the idea of God's sovereignty.

B. Section IV is itself composed of three sub-sections and an overall conclusion:

1. Don't let your j_____ be diminished by any remaining mysteries / incongruities (8:16-9:9).
2. Don't let any remaining mysteries / incongruities keep you from w_____ with all your m_____ (9:10-11:6)
3. The reminder of our own appointment with d_____ and the facing our C_____ should inform all our God-given joy and activity (11:7-12:8)
4. The end of the matter / conclusion (12:9-14)

II. THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF DISCERNING GOD'S PLAN BY OBSERVATION (8:16-9:3)

A. Solomon reminds us of his philosophical project (8:16-17)

B. Case in point: Can you figure out whom God favors by observation (9:1-3)?

Applications: (1) Solomon a_____ natural depravity

(2) Sin is inherently a kind of m_____ v.3b)

(3) National prosperity does not show _____

III. CONSIDER SOLOMON'S YOGI BERRA THEOLOGY

(9:4-6)

IV. IN THE FACE OF DEATH LIVE JOYFULLY

(9:7-9)

A. There will come a time when the sun does not come out t_____ so embrace the joy
God gives in your l_____ years.

B. What sorts of joys?

Eat your bread with joy _____

Drink your yasin with a merry heart _____

Let your garments always be white _____

Let your head lack no oil _____

Live joyfully with the wife you love _____

C. How can you embrace these joys if God's favor is not obvious and our bodies are food for worms?

God has already accepted your works implies j_____ by f_____ .

(1) Acceptance with God has always been by g_____ through f_____

(2) Even for the Old Testament saints. How so? _____