

DAILY BIBLE STUDY SHEET

As the people of God, we should be committed to reading Scripture every day. Here are daily readings and questions to help prompt your meditation. If you do not have a Bible, please contact the church office and we would be honored to provide one. To locate the passages, use the Table of Contents to find the page number of the book. The number before the colon will tell you the chapter to find. The numbers after the colon are the superscript numbers in your Bible indicating the verses to read.

Monday, May 9th – Ecclesiastes 8:2-17

We resume our journey this week back in the book of Ecclesiastes, which we will finish this week. Thus far, Solomon sees most of life as meaningless except that we are to enjoy what God provides while we have breath to do so. We start off today with the call to obedience to the king. Keeping in mind that the writer is the king, what words of insight does Solomon offer us (vss. 2-6)? To expound a bit more on the subject, where does Solomon take us (vss. 7-8)? Interesting that wickedness will not save you from death. We can cheat people, but we cannot cheat death. It will come to us. Starting in verse 9, Solomon continues to build on the difference between the wicked and righteous. What has he observed and why does it seem meaningless (vss. 9-14)? Consider our recent history in the United States. Do you see the same things happening now? What assurance does Solomon give us in this matter (vs. 13)? What then is Solomon's recommendation to us (vs. 14-15)? What are his final observations in this chapter (vss. 16-17)? What does this reveal to you about God? What does this reveal about humanity? Nothing is new under the sun, is it? How does this point to Jesus? Consider that Jesus is king. What is Solomon's advice again and how does it apply to you before your King?

Tuesday, May 10th – Ecclesiastes 9

The remaining chapters of this book are Solomon's final conclusions on life and death. We start today with his observations on death. What is Solomon's observation about the living (vss. 1-4)? Do you agree? Is it true? What is the difference between the living and the dead according to Solomon (vss. 5-8)? Therefore, what is Solomon's conclusion (vss. 9-10)? Now read verses 11-12. What is Solomon saying? Is everyone a winner? Maybe we got that one wrong? Consider those who have experienced tragedy. Maybe you have. Were you prepared for it or caught off guard? We close today with a comparison of wisdom and folly. In verses 13-16, who is wise and who is foolish? How does the wise one win out? How does the wise one lose, and why does he lose? Consider the Ukraine. Do they not fit this story thus far? Verse 17-18 are a proverb. What is the point of the proverb? What do these teachings reveal to you about God? What does it reveal to you about humanity? How do these point to Jesus? Consider how Jesus upends the beginning of chapter 9. What has changed from Solomon's time? Spend some time in prayer today, thanking Jesus for the changes. Thank God for the wisdom of Solomon, which points out these things to us.

Wednesday, May 11th – Ecclesiastes 10

As we move to Chapter 10 today, we see it reads more like Proverbs. As we did with Proverbs, we will study this chapter as themes. We start off with our largest theme, **WISE** people **VS. FOOLS**. How does Solomon contrast those who are wise from fools (vss. 1-3)? Now jumping to verse 10, what is the point regarding wisdom? How is wisdom like a dull ax? What are we to do? The final verses on wisdom and foolishness are verses 12-15. What is different between wise and foolish people in these verses? How does 14b tie into the use of words by the foolish? Let's now move to our next largest theme, **RULERS**. There are two points to be made about rulers. Read verses 16-17. Verse 16 is about when the rulers are less than honorable. Usually, disaster came upon Israel when that happened. But when the land is ruled by a good King and proper leaders, what is different (vs. 17)? Moving back to verses 5-7, we see another subject addressed, **IRONY**. What irony has Solomon seen? Have you seen things like this happen? The next theme addresses **HAZARDS OF LIFE**. What truth do we find in these proverbs (vss. 8-9)? Life is risky, is it not? So don't be surprised when bad things happen. There is always the possibility of that happening. There are three one-verse proverbs to finish this chapter off. Verse 4 deals with **ANGER** and gives sage advice. Verse 18 addresses laziness. When we are lazy, what happens? Consider when we are lazy with minds or our bodies. Does this apply? Finally, we have an observation of Solomon in verse 19. It ties into much of what Solomon has said before. What does he observe? Is he right? How does Jesus change that dynamic? What does this reveal to you about God? About humanity? How do these proverbs point to or reveal Jesus?

Thursday, May 12th – Ecclesiastes 11

As we move to chapter 11 today, we see two themes covered. We start off with finances. What words of wisdom does Solomon start off with (vss. 1-2)? There is a more common proverb today for this lesson. "Don't put all your eggs in the same basket." Verses 3-4 are tied together. How do rain and downed trees relate to planting and harvesting and the danger of being distracted, so that neither get accomplished? This chapter closes with advice to the old and young. What is Solomon's advice to those who live long (vss. 7-8)? We can be glad for our age, and we should relish each moment, but not all our days will be rosy and glad. What is Solomon's advice to the young (vss. 9-10)? Looking back on our youth, how does this apply to how we lived? How is this good advice for the youth of today? Are we sharing Solomon's advice with them? They probably won't heed it, just as most of us did not, but hearing may lead to repentance down the line. How does this chapter reveal God to you? What does it reveal about yourself and humanity in general? How does it point to Jesus?

Friday, May 13th – Ecclesiastes 12

Today we will finish Ecclesiastes. We have said that Solomon wrote this late in life. As you read verses 1-7, how do they point to this? What advice does Solomon give regarding aging? Is this important and if so, why? How does this tie into Proverbs 22:6? Imagine aging and becoming weaker without God. What might be your disposition? Verses 8-14 are Solomon's concluding thoughts. What does Solomon tell us about himself (he is the teacher)? What is Solomon's conclusion (vss. 13-14)? Do you agree? Did you agree when you were 20? 30? Even 40? What does the wisest man of men reveal to you about God in this final chapter? What does he reveal about you and humanity? What concerns you? Are you following Solomon's advice? How does this final chapter point to Jesus? Consider Jesus' obedience to death. Spend some time today following Solomon's advice from yesterday and today. Thank God for the wisdom and check yourself and your lifestyle. Are you living obediently?

Saturday, May 14th – Prepare for tomorrow by reading 1 Kings 12:1-14.