

# Ecclesiastes

## Chapters 9 & 10

### I. Chapter 9

#### A. The vanity of death. (Ecc 9:1-10)

1. Verses 1-6 are man's non – saved, non-eternal evaluation of life.
  - a. It is true that the same good things and bad things happen to both good and bad people alike.
  - b. Death happens to everyone and without an eternal focus, and a view of the eternal rewards that awaits a servant of God, man sees very little purpose to life.
  - c. Verse 5 “neither have they any more a reward” - this is false for the believer in Jesus Christ, but true for the man living apart from God.
  - d. The Bible clearly teaches that Christians that follow and serve Christ will be rewarded greatly for eternity. (1Cor 2:9, John 14:1-3)

#### C. Wisdom Better than Folly. (Ecc 9:11-18)

1. Verses 11 & 12 are supported throughout the Bible – we are not in charge and we do not know what is going to happen even tomorrow, yet alone out in the future. (James 14:4, Mat 6:34)
2. Facts about things people worry about:
  - 40% - About things that never happened
  - 30% - About things that we can not change
  - 12% - Needless worry about health (which can cause high blood pressure)
  - 10% - Petty and miscellaneous
  - 8% - Real problems!!

### II. Chapter 10

#### A. Observations of Wisdom and Folly. (10:1-3)

Western  $A + B = C$

Eastern:  $A - C, B - D$ , then go back to  $A - C$ , then some more to get to  $A = D$

1. No matter how wise one may be – if sin is present, the reputation is destroyed.
2. This is true for Christians and is particularly true for pastors.
3. People watch them and want to see if they really live according to what they say. Some do this out of curiosity, others out of malice, in order to criticize their way of thinking.
4. Unfortunately – everyone does wrong sometime. How you deal with that is key.

### Leadership (Ecc 10:4-10)

5. This is really great advice about what to do if your boss offends you; should you immediately quit and storm out?
6. No – Hold your peace, see if whatever wrong occurred passes, and if it doesn't, only quit when you have found a new job.
7. Also, it is easier to get hired when you have a job.

### **B. Wisdom with the tongue.** (Ecc 10:11-15)

Solomon's best advice on the mouth or tongue: (Pro 17:28, 21:23, plus James 3:3-8)

Then Solomon loops back to leadership. (Ecc 10:16-20)

1. Solomon is speaking from personal experience
2. Instead of being a righteous king, and leading his nation to follow God, like his father David had done. Solomon was instead a playboy king, who disobeyed God, wasted his life, failed to maintain the Lord's House, and perhaps worst of all, had a son who became king that was just like his dad.