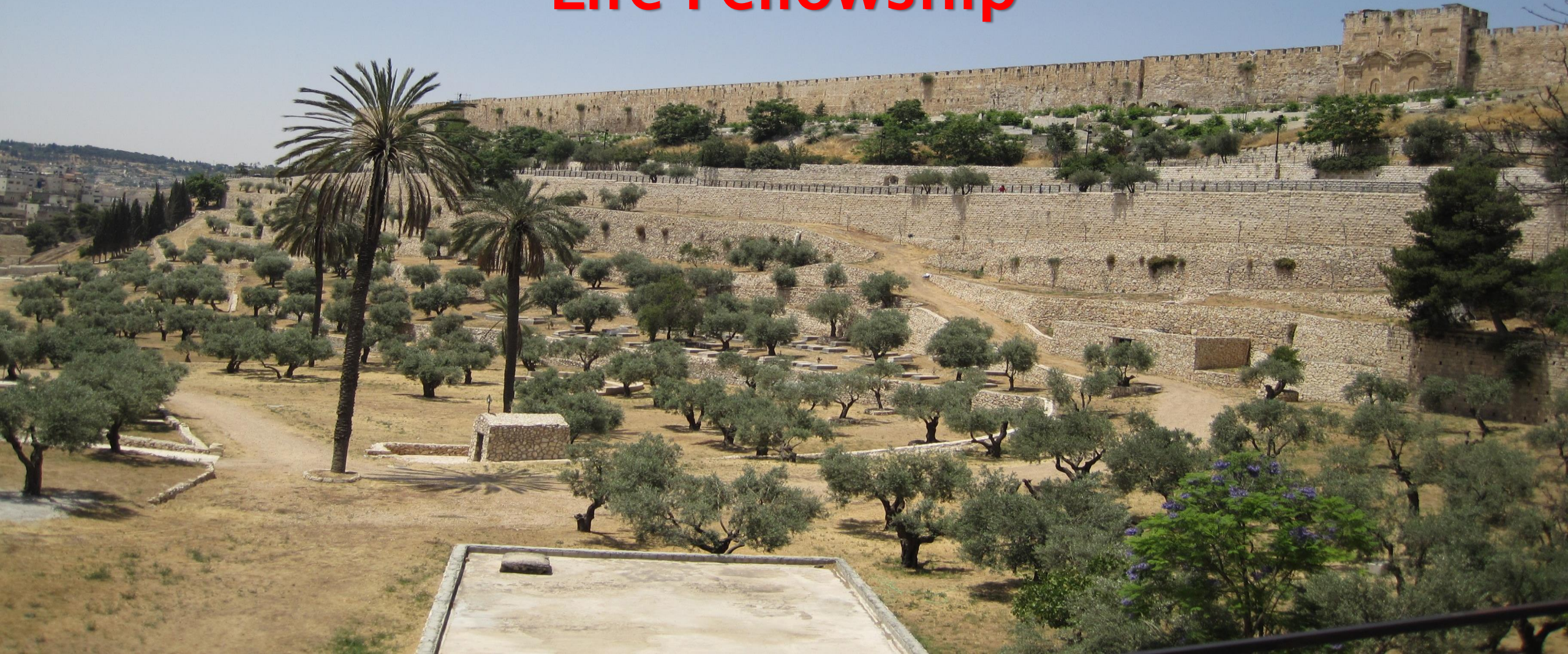


The Book of Ecclesiastes

Life Fellowship





Ecclesiastes Chapter 9

A. The vanity of death.

Ecc 9:1 For all this I considered in my heart even to declare all this, that the righteous, and the wise, and their works, *are* in the hand of God: no man knoweth either love or hatred *by* all *that is* before them.

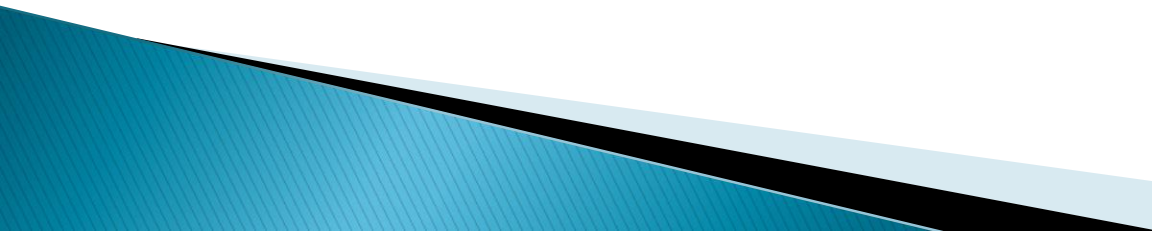
Ecc 9:2 *All things come* alike to all: *there is* one event to the righteous, and to the wicked; to the good and to the clean, and to the unclean; to him that sacrificeth, and to him that sacrificeth not: as *is* the good, so *is* the sinner; *and* he that sweareth, as *he* that feareth an oath.

Ecc 9:3 This *is* an evil among all *things* that are done under the sun, that *there is* one event unto all: yea, also the heart of the sons of men is full of evil, and madness *is* in their heart while they live, and after that *they go* to the dead.

Ecc 9:4 For to him that is joined to all the living there is hope: for a living dog is better than a dead lion.

Ecc 9:5 For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten.

Ecc 9:6 Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any *thing* that is done under the sun.

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. V 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.
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d. The Bible clearly teaches that Christians that follow and serve Christ will be rewarded greatly for eternity.

1Co 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

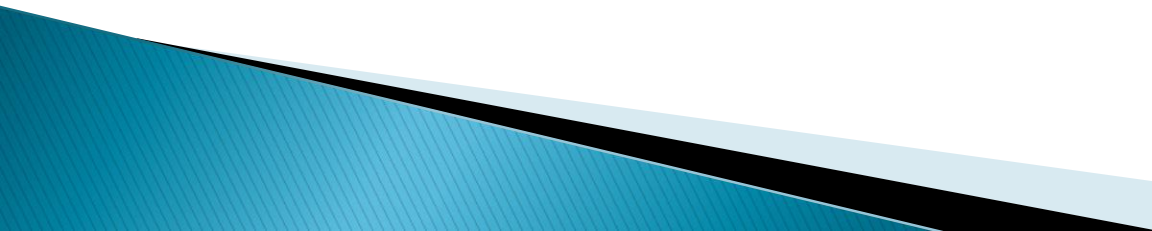
ii. God has prepared a mansion in heaven for us:

Joh 14:1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

Joh 14:2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if *it were* not *so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

Joh 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.

iii. 5 crowns that can be earned for living for and serving the Lord

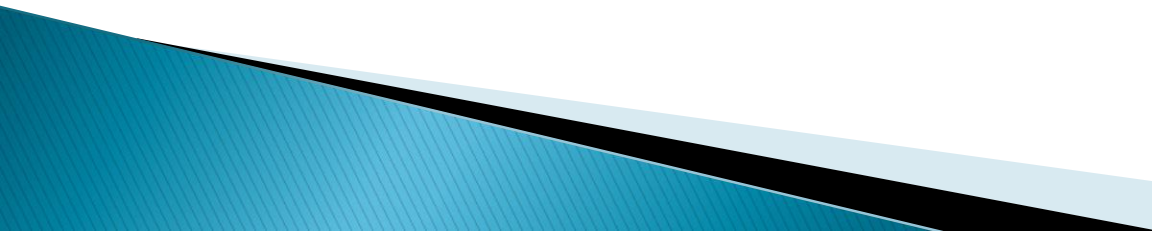
- The Crown of Righteousness (2 Timothy 4:7–8)
 - The Crown of life (Revelation 2:10, James 2:12)
 - The Incorruptible Crown (1 Corinthians 9:25)
 - The Crown of Rejoicing (1 Thessalonians 2:19)
 - The Crown of Glory (1 Peter 5:4)
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Ecc 9:7 Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart; for God now accepteth thy works.

Ecc 9:8 Let thy garments be always white; and let thy head lack no ointment.

Ecc 9:9 Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that *is* thy portion in *this* life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun.

Ecc 9:10 Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do *it* with thy might; for *there is* no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.



C. Wisdom Better than Folly

Ecc 9:11 I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race *is* not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all.

Ecc 9:12 For man also knoweth not his time: as the fishes that are taken in an evil net, and as the birds that are caught in the snare; so *are* the sons of men snared in an evil time, when it falleth suddenly upon them.

Ecc 9:13 This wisdom have I seen also under the sun, and it *seemed* great unto me:

Ecc 9:14 *There was* a little city, and few men within it; and there came a great king against it, and besieged it, and built great bulwarks against it:

Ecc 9:15 Now there was found in it a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city; yet no man remembered that same poor man.

Ecc 9:16 Then said I, Wisdom *is* better than strength: nevertheless the poor man's wisdom *is* despised, and his words are not heard.

Ecc 9:17 The words of wise *men are* heard in quiet more than the cry of him that ruleth among fools.

Ecc 9:18 Wisdom *is* better than weapons of war: but one sinner destroyeth much good.

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. James teaches us that life vanishes away quickly and Christ taught that we should not even worry about tomorrow.

Jas 4:14 Whereas ye know not what *shall be* on the morrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

Mat 6:34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day *is* the evil thereof.

3. 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

10% – Petty and miscellaneous

8% – Real problems!!



Ecclesiastes Chapter 10

Note – Presentation style of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes:

Western $A + B = C$


Eastern: $A - C, B - D$, then $A - C$ to get to $A = D$

A. Observations of Wisdom and Folly.

Ecc 10:1 Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour: *so doth* a little folly him or that is in reputation for wisdom *and* honour.

Ecc 10:2 A wise man's heart *is* at his right hand; but a fool's heart at his left.

Ecc 10:3 Yea also, when he that is a fool walketh by the way, his wisdom faileth *him*, and he saith to every one *that he is* a fool.

1. The beginning of Chapter 10 continues down the same path as the last verse of chapter 9.
 2. No matter how wise one may be – if sin is present, the reputation is destroyed.
 3. This is true for Christians and is particularly true for pastors.
 4. 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.
 5. Unfortunately – everyone does wrong sometime.
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Leadership

Ecc 10:4 If the spirit of the ruler rise up against thee, leave not thy place; for yielding pacifieth great offences.

1. This is really great advice that we discuss with people often in financial counselling. If your boss offends you, should you immediately quit and storm out?
2. No – Hold your peace, see if whatever wrong occurred passes, and if it doesn't, only quit when you have a new job.

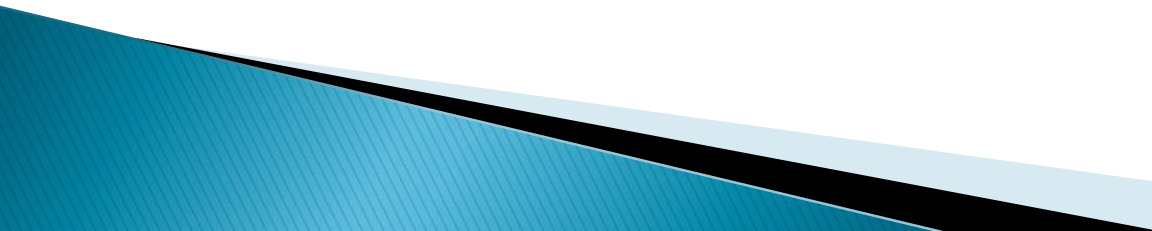
Ecc 10:5 There is an evil *which* I have seen under the sun, as an error *which* proceedeth from the ruler:

Ecc 10:6 Folly is set in great dignity, and the rich sit in low place.

Ecc 10:7 I have seen servants upon horses, and princes walking as servants upon the earth.

9. Unfortunately, we see this much too frequently in both local and national leadership – corruption and favoritism.

10. Too often those people are focused on doing what is right for them, and their supporters, and are not doing what is truly right for the country.



The Fool

Ecc 10:8 He that diggeth a pit shall fall into it; and whoso breaketh an hedge, a serpent shall bite him.

Ecc 10:9 Whoso removeth stones shall be hurt therewith; *and* he that cleaveth wood shall be endangered thereby.

Ecc 10:10 If the iron be blunt, and he do not whet the edge, then must he put to more strength: but wisdom *is* profitable to direct.

11. Foolish laborer's, like foolish kings will fail.

12. Both in ruling and in working, we need to be wise or we will suffer the **disgrace** of being a fool.

B. Wisdom with the tongue.

Ecc 10:11 Surely the serpent will bite without enchantment; and a babbler is no better.

Ecc 10:12 The words of a wise man's mouth *are* gracious; but the lips of a fool will swallow up himself.

Ecc 10:13 The beginning of the words of his mouth *is* foolishness: and the end of his talk *is* mischievous madness.

Ecc 10:14 A fool also is full of words: a man cannot tell what shall be; and what shall be after him, who can tell him?

Ecc 10:15 The labour of the foolish wearieth every one of them, because he knoweth not how to go to the city.

Solomon's best advice on the mouth or tongue:

Pro 17:28 Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: *and* he that shutteth his lips *is esteemed* a man of understanding.

Pro 21:23 Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.

James says that the tongue is naturally wicked:

Jas 3:4 Behold also the ships, which though *they be* so great, and *are* driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth.

Jas 3:5 Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!

Jas 3:6 And the tongue *is* a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.

Jas 3:7 For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind:

Jas 3:8 But the tongue can no man tame; *it is* an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

The Bible teaches that the goal when we speak should be:

Pro 8:8 All the words of my mouth *are* in righteousness; *there is* nothing froward or perverse in them.

Pro 13:3 He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: *but* he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction.

Pro 15:23 A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word *spoken* in due season, how good *is it!*

Pro 10:20 The tongue of the just *is as* choice silver: the heart of the wicked *is* little worth.



Back to leadership

Ecc 10:16 Woe to thee, O land, when thy king *is* a child, and thy princes eat in the morning!

Ecc 10:17 Blessed *art* thou, O land, when thy king *is* the son of nobles, and thy princes eat in due season, for strength, and not for drunkenness!

Ecc 10:18 By much slothfulness the building decayeth; and through idleness of the hands the house droppeth through.

Ecc 10:19 A feast is made for laughter, and wine maketh merry: but money answereth all *things*.

Ecc 10:20 Curse not the king, no not in thy thought; and curse not the rich in thy bedchamber: for a bird of the air shall carry the voice, and that which hath wings shall tell the matter.

1. Don't miss this – Solomon is speaking from personal experience
 2. Instead of being a righteous king, 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.
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