**Ladies Bible Study**

**Ecclesiastes, Lesson Four**

**Ecclesiastes 6**

**March 31, 2020**

1. Riches without Enjoyment: Ecclesiastes 6:1-6
	1. Lets look into the lives of 2 different men. Solomon is going to use these 2 men’s different situations to prove a point and teach us about life.
		1. What do we know about the man from vrs. 1-2?

* + 1. What do we NOT know about the man from vrs. 1-2
		2. What do we know about the man from vrs. 3-6
		3. What do we NOT know about the man from vrs. 3-6
	1. The man from verses 1-2 may be a man that Solomon is acquainted with or heard about.

“To enjoy the gifts without the ­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is idolatry, and this can \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_satisfy the human heart. Enjoyment without \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is merely entertainment, and it doesn’t \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. But enjoyment with God is enrichment and it brings true \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”

“Enjoy the blessings of God \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Him for all of them. Don’t \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to live- start living now. Be satisfied with what He gives you and use it all for His glory,”

* 1. The man from verses 3-6 is a hypothetical case. The Preacher is obviously exaggerating here in order to make his point.

“NO matter how much you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, if you don’t possess the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to enjoy it, you might just as well \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have been born.”

* + 1. Here is a man with abundant resources and a large family, all marks of God’s favor.

The rich man was really poor. For some reason perhaps sickness, he couldn’t enjoy his money. And he couldn’t enjoy his large family because there was no love in the home. They didn’t even weep whom the man died. Solomon’s conclusion was that it were better for this man had he never been born, or that he had been still born.

* + 1. Solomon likens not being able enjoy your wealth to grievous sorrow of a stillborn death. God, Himself, uses this example to give \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. God is the Giver of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and the Giver of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the Giver of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
		2. The 2,000 year-old man and the stillborn baby both ended up in the same place-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Once again, the Preacher confronted his listeners with the certainty of death and the futility of life without God.
	1. What Solomon was missing was the ability to enjoy life from within- from a life satisfied with God. It is a matter of character and NOT circumstances. Philippians 4:11-13
1. Labor without Satisfaction: Ecclesiastes 6:7-9
	1. Solomon warns us to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with what you have. Matthew 6:25-26
	2. Verse 7 “All man’s efforts are for his mouth”
		1. God gave us work. Colossians 3:17,23-24; Proverbs 6:10-12, 13:4, 14:23; 1 Timothy 5:8
		2. Appetite means: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	3. Verse 8 Solomon had Questions
		1. Solomon askes over 20 questions. These are NOT rhetorical questions with obvious or sometimes, absurd answers. Solomon’s questions show a seriousness or an urgency for answers. Chapter 6 contains 6 of them.
		2. The answer to both these questions is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	4. Verse 9 “I didn’t know what I needed till I saw it.”
		1. Roving of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; never satisfied; always looking for more
		2. Hebrews 13:5
		3. Proverbs 27:20
		4. 1 Timothy 6:6-10
		5. “Never let the things you want, mane you forget the things you have”
		6. “A bird in the hand is worth 2 in the bush”

It is better to have little and really enjoy it than to dream about much and never attain it. Dreams have a way of becoming nightmares if we don’t come to grips with reality.

Is it wrong to dream great dreams or to enjoy things? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

In the will of God there can be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with enjoyment and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with satisfaction. But we must accept His plan for our lives, receive His gifts \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and enjoy each day as He enables us. That LOOKS different for each and everyone of us!! Don’t rob your or anyone else’s ability to enjoy God’s gifts by comparing or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. God is the Giver and the Judge!

1. More Questions: Ecclesiastes 6:10-12
	1. God Pop-ups:
		1. Immutable:
		2. Inscrutable:
		3. Sovereignty:

Complete \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with all rights and authority

God possesses and continually exercises the sole \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to do all His pleasure with all His creation without \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or successful interference

* 1. Verse 10 “Named” refers to the practice of expressing the nature of something by giving it an appropriate name.
		1. Being Named in s a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ deal in Scripture!
			1. It is fixing its character and stating what the thing really is. During the time of creation, God named the things that He made; and nobody changed those designations. “Light” is “light” and not darkness; “day” is “day” and not night, etc.
		2. God can \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ His divine purposes with or without our cooperation, but He invites us to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with Him.
			1. We cooperate with God as we accept the “names” He has given to things:
				1. Sin is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; Obedience is obedience; Truth is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 \*If we alter these names we move into a world of illusion and lose touch with reality.\*

* + 1. We are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to decide and choose our world, but we are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ free to change the consequences. If we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a world of illusion, we start living on substitutes, and there can be \_\_\_\_\_\_ satisfaction in a world of substitutes.
			1. John 14:6
			2. John 17:3
			3. 1 John 5:20

* 1. Verse 11 Foolishness to argue with God
		1. Consequently it is foolish for man to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with God about what He has foreordained. More arguing (more words) only results in more futility for man. Man does not know what is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for him because he does not what the future holds completely (v 12 cf. 3:22b). Even though we have more revelation of God’s plans and purposes than Solomon did, we still are very \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of these things.
			1. Some problems are made clearer only as on goes and allows the Lord to guide.

-Walking in Faith…one step at a time…moving forward!

* + 1. Solomon is saying, “There are some questions about life that nobody can answer. But our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ must not be used as an excuse for unbelief. Instead our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ should encourage us to have faith in God. After all, we don’t live on explanations; we live on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”
		2. Explanations do \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ always solve personal problems or make people feel better.
			1. BECAUSE KNOWLEDGE IN THE MIND DOES NOT GUARANTEE HEALING FOR THE HEART. That comes only when we put our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the promises of God.
		3. The will of God comes from the HEART of God and is an expression of the LOVE of God (Ps 33:11) What God wills for us is\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for us, because He knows far more about us that we do.
			1. Romans 1:24,26,28
		4. God is absolutely \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to act as He sees best! He is not a prisoner of His attributes, His creation, or His eternal purposes. You and I may not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ how God exercises His freedom, but it isn’t necessary for us to know all. Our greatest freedom comes when we are lovingly lost in the will of God. Our Father in Heaven doesn’t feel threatened when we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Him, debate with Him, or even wrestle with Him, so long as we love His will and want to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Him.
		5. What do we accomplish will all these words? Does talking about it solve the problem?
			1. We need the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_! The only true and meaningful words. And the wisdom He along can give.
	1. Verse 12 Who Knows?
		1. Questions: Who knows what is good for us? Does anybody know what’s coming next?
			1. Answer: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!
		2. A wise person will take time to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to what God has to say. Yes, life may seem to be fleeting and illusive, like a soap bubble (vanity) or a shadow, but “he who does the will of God abides forever” (1 John 2:17).
		3. In spite our best efforts, nobody knows the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ except God. It is futile to speculate. God gives us enough information to encourage us, but He does not cater to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_curiosity. One thing is sure: death is coming, and we had better make the best use of our present opportunities. All for the Glory of God!!!
1. Application: So where is your HOPE?

 In your wealth? Health? Family? Your ability to hunker down and isolate? The government? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ None of these things will give you lasting hope and assurance. Our hope is found in God through Jesus Christ our Lord!!

**Ladies Bible Study**

**Observations Sheet for Lesson 4**

**Read Ecclesiastes 7 and 8**

**Chapter 7: Wisdom of Solomon**

**Objective #1: Wisdom Vs 1-12**

Vs. 1: A good name is better than fine \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

How many times is the word wise or fool used in verses 4-12? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

KEY: VS 12: Wisdom is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, as money is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but the advantage of knowledge is this: the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ preserves the life of its \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Objective #2: Good and Bad Vs 13-14**

In vs 13-14, Solomon makes the following declaration: “Consider what God has done: who can straighten what he has made crooked? When times are good, be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but when times are bad, consider: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Therefore, a man cannot discover anything about his future.

**Objective #3: Righteous vs wicked (vs. 15-29)**

Vs. 15-18: Righteous vs wicked
Which is better? Overwise or overwicked?

How many did Solomon find that were righteous? \_\_\_\_\_\_What verse was this located in?\_\_\_\_\_

Seemingly out of nowhere...vs 21-22...What are we warned about? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

In verse 26: What was Solomon’s personal stumbling block? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Chapter 8:**

**Objective #1: Obedience and wisdom (vs 1-10)**

In verse 1, Solomon tells us that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ brightens a man’s face and changes its hard appearance.

In verses 2, what was the reasoning that Solomon gave for obeying the king’s command? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

He provides 2 strong instructions in regards to one's interaction with the king. What were they?

 1.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 2.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Objective #2: Good things happen to bad people and bad things happen to good people. (Vs. 11-15)**

Vs. 11-13 -When the sentence for a crime is not quickly carried out, the hearts of the people are filled with schemes to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

KEY: vs14: There is something else meaningless that occurs on earth: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_men who get what the wicked deserve, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ men who get what the righteous deserve. This too, I say, is meaningless.

**Objective #3:  Man cannot understand God’s ways- no matter how wise (vs. 16-17)**

Who was the wisest man on earth? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Who is writing the book of Ecclesiastes?\_\_\_\_\_\_  Does he have it all figured out?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

KEY vs 17b: Despite all \_\_\_\_\_ efforts to search it out, \_\_\_\_\_ cannot discover its meaning. Even if a \_\_\_\_\_\_man claims he knows it, he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ really comprehend it.