

## ARE YOU GETTING THE POINT YET? Pt. 2 (Ecclesiastes 4:8-16)

### C. Solomon's PERSPECTIVE on the EVENTS of Life & the Secret of God's PROVIDENCE. (3:1-5:20)

#### 3. The 7 goads of human frustration. (3:16-4:16)

a. Goad #1: The frustration of earthly \_\_\_\_\_. (3:16-17)

b. Goad #2: The frustration of \_\_\_\_\_ for a man like a beast. (3:18-22)

c. Goad #3: The frustration of \_\_\_\_\_ and no earthly \_\_\_\_\_. (4:1-3)

d. Goad #4: The frustration of \_\_\_\_\_. (4:4)

e. Goad #5: The frustration of \_\_\_\_\_. (4:5-6)

1) **The problem:** "The \_\_\_\_\_ {who disregards wisdom} **folds his hands**" {this is an idiom for laziness and being a sluggard}

2) **The point:** "and \_\_\_\_\_ **his own flesh**" {he is self-destructive}.

3) **The perspective to embrace:** "Better a handful {small amount cradled in one's hand} **with** \_\_\_\_\_ {inner rest & tranquility; freedom from great stress} **than both hands full** {clutching a larger portion of gain}, **together with** \_\_\_\_\_ {mental, emotional, physical backbreaking efforts} **and grasping for the wind**" {frustration & without real satisfaction}.

Proverbs 6:10-11, 12:24, 18:9, 19:15, 21:5, 24:30-34

f. Goad #6: The frustration of the \_\_\_\_\_. (4:8-12)

1) **The problem:** "There is one \_\_\_\_\_, without \_\_\_\_\_ {companion, dependent}: **He has neither son nor brother** {those who would share or inherit his wealth}. **Yet there is** \_\_\_\_\_ **to all his labors, Nor is his eye** \_\_\_\_\_ **with riches. But he never asks, "For** \_\_\_\_\_ **do I toil and deprive myself of good?"**" (4:8a)

2) **The point:** "This also is \_\_\_\_\_ {transitory with no lasting value} **and a** \_\_\_\_\_ {a miserable, grievous, depressing task}." (4:8b)

3) **The perspective and value of caring companionship:**

- {in working} \_\_\_\_\_ are better than \_\_\_\_\_, **Because they have a good reward** {greater benefits and returns} **for their labor.** 10
- {in walking} **For if they fall, one will lift up his** \_\_\_\_\_. **But woe** {woe, pity} **to him who is** \_\_\_\_\_ **when he falls, For he has** \_\_\_\_\_ **to help him up.** 11
- {in warmth} **Again, if** \_\_\_\_\_ **lie down together, they will keep warm; But how can** \_\_\_\_\_ **be warm alone?** 12
- {in watch-care} **Though** \_\_\_\_\_ **may be overpowered by another, \_\_\_\_\_ can withstand him. And a** \_\_\_\_\_ **cord is not quickly broken."** What does that mean?

\*\*\*\*\* What else do the Scriptures teach about companionship, friends, and teamwork? \*\*\*\*\*

- (1) Close friendship requires a \_\_\_\_\_ that can be a great \_\_\_\_\_ of fellowship or a \_\_\_\_\_ experience of disloyalty when abused. (Ps. 15:1-3; 41:5-8; 55:12-14, 20-22)
- (2) Your friends \_\_\_\_\_ you for better or for worse; so, \_\_\_\_\_ your friends. (4:14-16; 12:26; 13:20; 16:29; 19:4-7; 22:24; 28:7; 29:3)
- (3) Friends are \_\_\_\_\_. (14:20-21; 15:22; 27:14)
- (4) Friendship does not demand \_\_\_\_\_, especially with casual friends. (6:1-5; 17:18)
- (5) True friends \_\_\_\_\_, even in times of \_\_\_\_\_. (17:17; 3:27-28)
- (6) Good friendships are destroyed by \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_. (11:9; 16:27-28; 17:9; 26:17-20)
- (7) The \_\_\_\_\_ of faithful friends should be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, even when they \_\_\_\_\_ you. (18:1, 13, 17; 27:5-10, 17)
- (8) For you to have friends, you must yourself be \_\_\_\_\_. (18:24)
- (9) The greatest friend you can have and friendship you can enjoy is with \_\_\_\_\_. (18:24; 22:11; John 15:12-14; James 2:23; 4:4)

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g. Goad #7: the frustration of \_\_\_\_\_. (4:13-16)

- 1) **The temporary perspective:** “Better a poor and wise youth {who takes counsel and correction} than an old and foolish king who will be admonished no more {which means he use to take it}. For he comes out of prison {either literally or by way of poverty} to be king {succeeding the old and foolish king}, although he was born poor in his {now} kingdom.” (4:13-14) This is a rags-to-riches story with kingdom-wide popularity.
- 2) **The problem:** “I saw {observed with perception} all the living who walk under the sun {in this earthly existence}; They were with the second youth {the successor} who stands in his {the king’s former} place. 16 There was no end of all the people over whom he was made king {in his kingdom}; Yet those who come afterward {when his reign ends} will not rejoice in him. (4:15-16a) People are fickle & the king’s popularity largely dies with him.
- 3) **The point:** “Surely this also is \_\_\_\_\_ {transitory, with no lasting value} and grasping for the wind {frustration & without real satisfaction}.” (4:16b)
- 4) **The eternal perspective on popularity & pleasing others:** Out of gratitude for God’s love & grace and their new position in Christ, believers should \_\_\_\_\_ live for themselves but for \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Cor. 5:14-15) in order to \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord in their walk (2 Cor. 5:9-10; Col. 1:9-11) as faithful stewards and servants of Him (1 Cor. 4:1-5) without aspirations of popularity but anticipation of \_\_\_\_\_ by some – whether unbelievers or even believers. (John 15:18-19; Gal. 1:10; 1 Cor. 4:7-16; 2 Tim. 3:12; Heb. 13:20-21) How does all of this apply to you?