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**In the previous weeks, (2:1-11); we learned from Solomon's zeal and determination to find out the meaning of this life which we all live in the flesh under the sun:**

What is at the end of it all? What is the value and profit of all of our work and labors? Solomon personally gave himself (by wisdom) to labor and weary himself and to experience all of the things that we, as humans give ourselves to in this life for fulfillment and satisfaction.

At the end of the day, and after all of Solomon's labor and weariness, giving his mind to the things of this life, his conclusion: Vanity/vexation of spirit.

**He then turned himself and his mind from his labor to behold (to study & consider) wisdom and madness and folly or foolishness.**

What does wisdom, madness, and folly do for you and me in this life? What value, what gain, what advantages, and what profit is found in wisdom, madness, and folly? How do they help you? How do they hurt you?

Ecclesiastes 7:25

**FIRST:** We learned from the scriptures that wisdom (true wisdom, right wisdom, godly wisdom) comes from God. James 1:5  
Psalm 111:10: The fear of the LORD is the beginning (the Genesis) of wisdom.

Proverbs 1:7: But fools despise wisdom and instruction

**SECOND:** God given wisdom in this life (under heaven) is of great advantage to those that have it; it keeps us from sinning against God and from doing foolish, hurtful, and dangerous things. Walking in wisdom in this life is like walking in the light!

Proverbs 22:3: A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simply (or foolish) pass on and are punished

**THIRD:** The wise man's eyes (or the wise woman's) eyes are in their head; the wise are careful, cautious, and thoughtful; they ponder the path of their feet, they think before they speak or act; wisdom is valuable/profitable to those that have it.

IN CONTRAST, the fool goes through life carelessly, thoughtlessly, and without considering the consequences of their words and actions until they have already been snared and punished because of their folly and foolishness.

But even with all of my wisdom, saith Solomon, when it comes to death; that ONE EVENT that happens to us all, I am no different, and I am and no better than the fool.

**Although there is great value/advantages that come with wisdom, in keeping myself from sin and from dangers in this life; YET all of my wisdom doesn't exempt me from many of the same evils that befall the fool.**

When it comes to death, I will die like the fool; my wisdom

won't save me from getting cancer, high blood pressure, or having a heart attack, or from some other debilitating disease of the body. Psalm 49:10

What good, therefore, is all of my wisdom if it makes me no better than the fool in this respect? For neither the wiseman or the fool (or madman) will be REMEMBERED (in this life) any more than the other. In many cases wise men are forgotten and fools are remembered.

Solomon now turned from a DETERMINED man to a very PESSIMISTIC man. Ecclesiastes 1:18; TEXT: Ecclesiastes 2:17-23

**Therefore I hated life. Why did Solomon hate life? (C2V17-18):**

Because after all of his earthly work and labor and wearisome toil; and after applying his heart (by wisdom) TO KNOW wisdom and madness and folly; all of it brought him no fulfillment and satisfaction in this life.

But more than that, Solomon says, I hated life because all of the things that I worked and labored so hard for in this life; things that I built; parks, pools, and all of my orchards; my riches, my cattle, and all of my possessions and my vast Kingdom will be left to another man as soon as I die. (V19)

It seems Solomon already knew that his son Rehoboam was a fool, and that the Kingdom would be fractured and greatly weakened by his son's folly as soon as Solomon died, and Rehoboam ascended to the throne.

It was as if Solomon wanted to prevent all of what he had amassed from falling into the hands of his son, the next King.

He shall have RULE over all my labor wherewith I have labored, and wherein I have showed myself wise under the sun. This is also vanity

**Solomon's DETERMINATION brought him to DESPAIR: (V20-23)**

He lost sleep over the fact that all that he had worked so hard for; all of his successes and the results of his labor would be left to the man that had not labored for it.

This is what drove Solomon to HATE LIFE in this world; this is why he also came to HATE all of his LABOR under the sun.

**APPLICATIONS: What good is my wisdom if it won't save me from getting cancer or from contracting some terminal disease, or from high blood pressure, and from dying just like the fool?**

I won't be saved from physical death, but The Wiser than Solomon said this in John 5:24-29, 2 Timothy 3:15 (THIS IS THE BEST WISDOM!!!)

To the lost, LABOR (and seek) for eternal life; leave off trying to build lasting things in this world; leave off trying to LIVE forever here. Jesus said this:

John 11:25-26: I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall NEVER DIE. Believest thou this?

Yes, both the wise and the fool will die; none of us can escape physical death, but you can be saved from your sins NOW

& TODAY, and from eternal death and eternal damnation! 2  
Corinthians 6:2

HOW would you die if it was NOW/TODAY? Wise? In Christ?  
Or, as a fool? Lost and undone and in your sins? Luke  
13:24

**What about all of my earthly possessions? What about all that I**  
**have labored so hard for in this life. What if my children are**  
**fools with what I leave them? What if they squander and ruin all of**  
**what I labored for? Luke 12:15-21**

Let them have your money, your possessions, your land, your gardens and your houses. Leave behind (FOR THEM) the memory of your life in Christ!

Proverbs 10:7: The memory of the just is blessed: but the  
name of the wicked shall rot. Mark 14:9

After you're dead and gone, let the Words of Christ that you spoke to them continue to resonate in their ears and sink down into their hearts!

Leave behind your testimony in Christ; LET THAT be the most precious thing that you leave your children; POINT them to Christ with every memory of your life!

Psalms 78:1-8, Hebrews 11:4: He being dead yet speaketh

Give them the KEY to find the same heavenly possessions; the same heavenly treasures that you found in Christ.

**Finally, Christian: Solomon HATED life in this world, and so must we**  
**in this respect.**

Not that we wake up every day and hate our existence! But we don't labor and live for this life; this is NOT our home; our Kingdom is NOT of this world, but our hope is in Christ and in eternal life in His everlasting presence! Matthew 10:39, 16:25-26, 9:24-25, John 12:25.

**How to LOVE LIFE in this world? 1 Peter 3:8-12**