

2119 - ENJOY YOUR BLESSINGS - Ecc 6.1-12

PRELIMS. Sol has been advising us about wealth and the **deceitfulness** of riches. - yet we **should enjoy** what God has given to us - it is **His gift** to us! Remember - **life** and **creation** is a **gift** from God!

The whole **burden** of this chapter seems to be '**Make the Most of All that God has Given You**'! Enjoy it all while you have it! It is a *grievous evil* that someone can **have wealth, possessions and honour**, all these wonderful things and **lack nothing** yet...he does **not enjoy them, but a stranger enjoys them** [2]! That is **not good**. A man **should enjoy** the fruit of his **own possessions**! We already saw last time that we ought to enjoy the fruit of our own **labour** - but here Sol is saying that we ought to enjoy whatever **possessions** we have!

God **wants** us to enjoy life. He created the world, and **each of us** for His own **pleasure and** for **our** pleasure also! God wasn't just 'playing around' when He made the world. He wasn't like a child **playing** with his toys **experimenting** and discovering something accidentally! No, no, no. *Our God is in the heavens; He does all that He pleases* [Psa 115:3] *Whatever the Lord pleases He does, in heaven and in earth* [Psa 135:6] God **created a lovely Garden for man to enjoy everything** in it - except one thing!

In this passage a **stranger** enjoys what the original man should have enjoyed! *Why?* The **answer** is what Sol has been saying all along in this book - **you need God to enjoy life**! If you have not God in your life, you will **toil and struggle!** *the toil of man is for his mouth, yet his appetite is not satisfied* [7] The **insatiableness** of man's **desire**.

When I go up to Inverness and ground the Longman Industrial Estate, I see large buildings and I knew the folk who worked hard and long to build these business - but they went bust and now someone else (strangers) have come and taken over the property and are making strides in the business world through the labours of others

We **think** we can be satisfied and have our eye on some **future** hope, but it lets us down too! Thus: *Better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of the appetite* [9]! Ie, Better **having** a little than **desiring** much! How often we are disappointed in something that we believed

would give us satisfaction. The ‘seeing’, ‘imagining’ and ‘dreaming’ of something can be better than the experiencing! There is a ‘**yen**’ in man a **longing** for something beyond him. Man wants to **aspire** and feels there **is something** yet to be discovered which **is** truly satisfying - and as Augustine said ‘Man is restless until he finds rest in God.

The great trouble with people is that we do **not** know the future - we imagine things will be great if we had them, but no! One commentator said that this chapter showed us three mysteries: We can have riches without happiness; work without fulfilment; questions without answers. Life is an **enigma** - but it is just an enigma **for us, not God!**

So Sol is saying that life on earth for the believer should be enjoyable. It is a **tragedy** not to enjoy what God has given us to enjoy. *a stillborn child is better* than that kind of person [3]! A stillborn child does not see the world *it has not seen the sun or known anything* [5], he has missed out on one of God’s greatest blessings - but a stillborn child will go to heaven, *it finds rest* [5] All those dying in infancy go to heaven - they have only **imputed sin**, and therefore will receive **imputed righteousness**. When Sol says *do not all go to the one place?* [6], he is referring to **physical** death, not eternal death, he is referring to the **grave**, not heaven or hell.

Christ is here on earth in the **Spirit** - and we can have the joy and fulfilment of salvation, forgiveness, hope, etc here on earth - but if we do not find it here, we will not find it in heaven. Heaven is the **fulfilling** of something **begun** on earth! *He which began a good work in you will bring it to completion - when? at the day of Jesus Christ* [Phil 1:6]! Heaven is the place where the longings/desires we had on earth are **fulfilled!** *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled!!* We need to remember that if we do not find salvation on earth, we can not find it heaven! *if his soul is not satisfied with life’s good things* [3] then we won’t enjoy the good things of heaven! If we do not see God in the blessings we have here on earth, we will not see it in the afterlife either!

Working for Christ, **servicing** Christ in whatever industry we are called to serve in, **has reference** and **fulfilment** in **eternity!** All the **experiences** that an honest Xn has on earth will have **value** in the

world to come - in the new heavens and the new earth! Saved by **faith**, but **judged** by **works**! That is **why** it is written *their works follow them* into the new heavens and the new earth? [R14:13]

Sol here complains about work that comes to nothing: *All the **toil** of man is for his mouth yet his appetite is not satisfied* [7] Sol uses hunger/food/eating as an **illustration** of the longing for fulfilment in the heart of man. Man 'works' all the time at trying to find that satisfaction. But it is so **illusive**. It is a striving after the wind.

There is a **special promise** to those who **work/serve** the **Lord** and especially His people *For **God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for His name in serving the saints, as you still do*** [Heb 6:10] **APP** Whatever you do for the Church, the Sunday School, cleaning etc, has a special reward!

Paul considered the **work** and **labour** of the Thess as something special and done in the **sight of God** *Remembering without ceasing **your work** of faith, and **labour** of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, **in the sight of God** and our Father; Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God* [1Thes 1:3] **APP** If Xns only realised how **glorifying** and **rewarding** it is to serve the Church, I am sure more of them would be up for serving in the church! Recently a minister told me he met someone who had left his congregation (a relatively small one) for a much larger church. He told the minister that the same thing was happening in the big church - only a small segment of the people did all the work!

So we are to work by serving the Lord and to **enjoy** it because, if we have **God** in our life, work has **meaning** and **purpose** and a **reward**! God has **promised** to bless all those who serve Him - and *the Lord is **not slow** to fulfil His promise* [2Pet3:9] *this is the **promise** that he made to us—eternal life* [1J2:25] and *this life is in His Son!*

Sol asks *What advantage has the wise man over the fool? And what does the poor man have who knows how to conduct himself before the living?* [8] **Ans:** Nothing - **IF** he does not have God in his life - none of them, either the wise man or the poor man who lives for **this life only** will gain nothing. They have been *striving after wind*.

The more words, the more vanity [11] You know, the more you say

about something especially about yourself, the more harm you can do. A Judge: 'Say as little as possible - you will only give the 'opposition' more to 'work on'!' I have witnessed time and time again, someone tying themselves up in knots because they loved hearing themselves speak! As for telling 'porkies', strangle yourself!

For those who do not have God in the **centre** of their lives, to give meaning and purpose, there is **no continuity** between this life and the life to come - apart from **grief/sorrow** that is the only thing that is similar! But for the Xn there is **continuity**! We continue to have that eternal life begun on earth! *whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become...a spring of water welling up to eternal life* [J4:14]

Man without God has no clue about the future life! That is because he does **not know** *what is good for man while he lives the few days of his vain life...who can tell man what will be after him under the sun?* [12]! **APP** Do you know what is good for you? One commentator said that one of his friends told him he prayed and prayed when he was young to date that beautiful girl down the road and marry her. He did date and after a year dating, he prayed and prayed that he would be able to break off the friendship. He didn't know what was good for him! No, we do not know what is really good for us!

Yes, life is meaningless without God! Sol admits to great advances by humans but to no **profit**! Thru technology we have gained **speed**, but lost in **quality**! We can transmit photos from the moon/Pluto but our newspapers and TV screens are full of **violence, immorality, sex, cheap entertainment**! We never learn the lessons of life! *Whatever has come to be has already been named* [10] We discovered this before! *it is known* *what man is* - he is just a **vapour**! *Who knows what is good for man...which he passes like a shadow* [12] We are **nothing** before God. None of us can tell the future! (BBC News who could have foretold Jeremy **Corbyn** or the **Migrants 3 months ago!** **So what? **Conclusion?** We need something more secure than mankind views! We need **God's Word**! That's how Sol ends it all, *fear God, keep His commandments!* We need to be **saved**! Thru God's Word we learn that we can **only keep them** by being in **Christ!** **Jesus Christ** is the **only** Saviour! **Believe and receive Him!**