

'All scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.'
2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17

The Book of Ecclesiastes

Chapter 11



Kerrville Bible Church

Fall Semester 2023

Ken Johnson



Ecclesiastes

Live by Faith (11:1 – 6)

- ❑ The Preacher asked: “Is life worth living?”
- ❑ After investigating and experimenting, he concluded:
“NO! Life is not worth living”
- ❑ He advanced four convincing arguments:
 - The Monotony of Life
 - The Vanity of Wisdom
 - The Futility of Wealth
 - The Certainty of Death



Ecclesiastes

Live by Faith (11:1 – 6)

- ❑ What did that life look like “under the sun”?
- ❑ Since there’s nothing new under the sun, it looked very much like most of life “under the sun” today
- ❑ Who’s the boss of that life?



WORLDLY WISDOM

Prideful

Pleasure-seekers

Arrogant

Don't need God

Hateful

Corrupt

Quarrelers

Fighting for "Rights"



Ecclesiastes

Live by Faith (11:1 – 6)

- Then, Solomon brought God into the picture:
- What a difference:
 - Solomon saw that life is not monotonous ... it is filled with challenges from God ... each in its own time and for its own purpose ... and ultimately for our good!



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 - Solomon learned that wealth can be enjoyed and employed to the glory of God
 - Solomon embraced death as inescapable, which motivates us to enjoy life now and make the most of the opportunities God gives us

Ecclesiastes

Live by Faith (11:1 – 6)



THE RESULT



GODLY WISDOM

Poor in Spirit
Mourners
Meek
Hunger after Righteousness
Merciful
Pure in Heart
Peacemakers
Rejoicing in Mistreatment



WORLDLY WISDOM

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Live by Faith (11:1 – 6)

1Cast your bread on the surface of the waters, for you will find it after many days. 2Divide your portion to seven, or even to eight, for you do not know what misfortune may occur on the earth.

- First six verses are subject of fierce debate: do they deal with agriculture, a commercial enterprise or charitable giving?
- No matter – they all clearly teach on:
 - The evils of hoarding wealth,
 - The concepts of investment, risk and faith,
 - The exhortation to action rather than paralysis, and
 - Our ignorance of the future which drives our dependence on an Omniscient, Sovereign God



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- For simplicity think of shipping
 - Great risks: storms, reefs, pirates ...
 - Many months away from home
- Must invest, but how?
 - Spread the risk among several ships
 - Profit comes from the number that return safely
 - Must live by faith ... but faith in what? Or **WHO?**





Ecclesiastes

Live by Faith (11:1 – 6)

3If the clouds are full, they pour out rain upon the earth; and whether a tree falls toward the south or toward the north, wherever the tree falls, there it lies. 4He who watches the wind will not sow and he who looks at the clouds will not reap.

- ❑ Here ... think of a farmer
- ❑ Two emotions keep him from taking action
 - Dread: Danger coming (rain clouds)
 - Ignorance: Can't predict danger coming (tree)
- ❑ Finite man has no control over either
- ❑ There will never be the perfect time to take action
 - Use each day wisely ... do the job at hand
 - Have faith some of what you have done is blessed
 - By **Whom?**



Ecclesiastes

Live by Faith (11:1 – 6)

5Just as you do not know the path of the wind and how bones are formed in the womb of the pregnant woman, so **you do not know the activity of God who makes all things**. 6Sow your seed in the morning and do not be idle in the evening, for you do not know whether morning or evening sowing will succeed, or whether both of them alike will be good.

□ Faith ... instead of Doubt

- Solomon repeats "you do not know" three times
- There are mysteries of life that we humans will never comprehend
- But that is no reason to be idle ...
- **Success or failure is in the hands of the Lord**
- Do the very best you can with the gifts He has given
- God is the one who will give you your return



Ecclesiastes

Live by Faith (11:1 – 6)

□ Live by Faith in our Sovereign God!

6Now this I say, he who **sows sparingly** will also **reap sparingly**, and he who **sows bountifully** will also **reap bountifully**.

7**Each one** must **do** just as he has **purposed in his heart**, not grudgingly or **under compulsion**, for **God loves a cheerful giver**.

8And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for **every good deed**;

9as it is written, "He scattered abroad, he **gave to the poor**, His **righteousness endures forever**." (PS 112:9)

10Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and **increase the harvest of your righteousness**;

11you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us **is producing thanksgiving to God**.

(2 COR 9:6-11)



Ecclesiastes

Enjoy Life Now (11:7 – 12:8)

7The light is pleasant, and it is good for the eyes to see the sun. 8Indeed, if a man should live many years, let him rejoice in them all, and let him remember the days of darkness, for they will be many. Everything that is to come will be futility.

- V7 is a poetic way of expressing the joy of being alive
- Life is short, a wonderful gift from God, so we should **Rejoice** in each and every day of it
 - Will be days of darkness as well ... many of them
 - But those trials and travails only serve to make the joys of living all the sweeter
- Everything that comes to futility (“hebel”) refers to the time of dying, which comes to us all.

*“This is the day which the LORD has made; Let us **rejoice** and be glad in it.” Psalm 118:24*



Ecclesiastes

Enjoy Life Now (11:7 – 12:8)

9 Rejoice, young man, during your childhood, and **let your heart be pleasant** during the days of young manhood. And follow the impulses of your heart and the desires of your eyes. Yet know that God will bring you to judgment for all these things. 10 So, remove grief and anger from your heart and put away pain from your body, because childhood and the prime of life are fleeting.

- REJOICE - Start Enjoying your days now!
 - Not rejoicing that you're young
 - Rejoicing while you're young
- Solomon gives four practical suggestions for enjoyment:
 1. Let your heart be pleasant – during young manhood.
 - In Hebrew, literally let your heart be "good"
 - Build the theological foundation for living as early as possible



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2. Follow the impulses of your heart and the desires of your eyes.

- Is Solomon encouraging sinful self-indulgence? May it never be! He follows with a sober warning!

"Delight yourself in the LORD ; And He will give you the desires of your heart." (PS 37:3-4)

- PS 37:4 is better translated: "Take pleasure in pleasing God and He will implant His desires in your heart." Another magnificent gift from God!



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3. Remove grief and anger from your heart.

- Word in Hebrew is: "bitterness" (*unforgiven anger*)
- What is cause of "bitterness" in you?
- Poisons relationships in your life
- How do you get rid of it ... today?

"See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God ; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled." (HEB 12:15)



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4. Put away pain from your body.

- Take care of your physical and mental health
- Stop putting things in your body and mind that will cause you pain ... now or later
- Use it properly to keep it working for you
- Childhood and the prime of life are fleeting
- Live in the moment! Take a big bite!!!



The Book of Ecclesiastes



"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." Psalm 111:10
