

Ecclesiastes 9-10

Everyone Will Die (9:1-12)

Solomon again considers the reality of life “under the sun” reminding us that we all face death.

- Who is in control of everything (v1)?
- Are we fooled sometimes by what is right before us (v2)?
- What is the one thing that happens to all (v2-3)?
- How is living better than death (v4-5)?
- Will the dead ever have any share or role of any kind in the world “under the sun” (v6)?
- What “religious” errors are ruled out by v6?
- Even knowing we will die, has God given us much good to enjoy (v7-9)?
- Why should we do things with all our might (v10)?
- We plan (James 4:13-16), but who is really in control of outcomes (v11-12)?

Value and Limits of Wisdom (9:13-18)

Solomon again reminds us of the value of wisdom, but also that in the ultimate sense it too has limits.

- Is Solomon considering wisdom from a spiritual or physical approach (v13)?
- Can wisdom outdo strength (v14-16, Prov 21:22)?
- Are we tempted to ignore or dismiss the poor (v15,16, Prov 14:20, Prov 18:23)?
- In arguments are we sometimes tempted to use volume instead of wisdom (v17)?
- How much harm can one person cause (v18)?

Danger of a Little Folly (10:1-3)

Solomon shows that even a little folly is dangerous

- Can small things cause big problems (v1, Galatians 5:9)?
- Are we tempted sometimes to ignore “small” problems?
- Are we tempted to allow a little folly from an otherwise respected person (v1)?

- What does he mean by saying his heart is in his right hand(v2)?
- Can actions without words expose a fool (v3)?

Rulers and Princes (10:5-7)

Here we have a few nuggets of advice concerning rulers.

- How much harm came to Israel under evil kings (v5)?
- Even with bad rulers, were some in Israel faithful?
- Does the world sometimes elevate the wrong things (v6-7)?

Unexpected Outcomes (10:8-15)

Even with all of our plans, as humans we don't know how things we start will end.

- Do sometimes bad results happen, even with hard work (v8-9)?
- Do we improve our chances by using wisdom (v10)?
- Is there danger from foolish babblers (v11-12)?
- Does foolishness have a tendency to increase, if not stopped (v13)?
- Is there a danger in many words (v14, Prov 10:19)?

Kings and Princes (v16-20)

Solomon returns with more about kings.

- Why can a child king bring woe (v16)?
- What would princes feasting in the morning be a symptom of(v16)?
- Can things get worse through simply doing nothing (v18)?
- Do we need to be careful about what we think as well as what we say (v20, Matt 15:18)?