

A "FAITH" Based Perspective Ecc. 11-12



- ▶ The message of Ecclesiastes - "Vanity of vanities! All is vanity."
- ▶ Should we take the message of Ecclesiastes to be predominately negative?

A "FAITH" Based Perspective "Life Under the Sun"



Ecc. 11:1-8

Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days. **2** Give a serving to seven, and also to eight, for you do not know what evil will be on the earth. **3** If the clouds are full of rain, they empty themselves upon the earth; and if a tree falls to the south or the north, in the place where the tree falls, there it shall lie.

A "FAITH" Based Perspective "Life Under the Sun"



Ecc. 11:1-8

4 He who observes the wind will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap. **5** As you do not know what is the way of the wind, or how the bones grow in the womb of her who is with child, so you do not know the works of God who makes everything. **6** In the morning sow your seed, and in the evening do not withhold your hand;

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Ecc. 11:1-8

For you do not know which will prosper, either this or that, or whether both alike will be good. **7** Truly the light is sweet, and it is pleasant for the eyes to behold the sun; **8** But if a man lives many years and rejoices in them all, yet let him remember the days of darkness, for they will be many. All that is coming is vanity.

A "FAITH" Based Perspective The Investment of Sacrificial Living Investing Long Term

Ecclesiastes 11:1 | INKJV

1 Cast your bread upon the waters, For you will find it after many days.
2 Give a serving to seven, and also to eight, For you do not know what evil will be on the earth.

▶ Various interpretations have been given:

- ★ Sowing seed in wetlands
- ★ A merchant sending food abroad on ships
- ★ Be willing to take risks

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Ecclesiastes 11:1 | INKJV

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▶ The traditional Jewish view is one of charity, and that one's benevolence should be practiced freely without a view to personal return.

▶ The general principle - we reap what we sow

A "FAITH" Based Perspective

The Investment of Sacrificial Living Investing Long Term

Ecclesiastes 11:1 (NKJV)

¹ Cast your bread upon the waters, For you will find it after many days.
² Give a serving to seven, and also to eight, For you do not know what evil will be on the earth.

▶ There is CERTAIN reward for all who by faith persevere in doing good

- * Example of Job – Job 1:12,22; 2:10
- * Example of Moses – Heb. 11:24-26
- * Example of Paul - 2 Cor. 4:16-18

A "FAITH" Based Perspective

The Value of Persistent Faithfulness ACT IN FAITH DESPITE THE PROBLEMS OF LIFE

Ecclesiastes 11:3-4 (NKJV)

³ If the clouds are full of rain, They empty themselves upon the earth; And if a tree falls to the south or the north, In the place where the tree falls, there it shall lie. ⁴ He who observes the wind will not sow, And he who regards the clouds will not reap.

A "FAITH" Based Perspective

The Value of Persistent Faithfulness ACT IN FAITH DESPITE THE PROBLEMS OF LIFE

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. streets!"

▶ Problems of life will come, and we cannot stop them

* We cannot allow our focus to be on the negatives of life. - Prov. 22:13

* We cannot allow any apparent lack of success to dissuade us from continued faithfulness - 1 Cor. 3:5-8

A "FAITH" Based Perspective

The Value of Persistent Faithfulness ACT IN FAITH DESPITE Our Ignorance of The Future

Ecclesiastes 11:5-6 (NKJV)

⁵ As you do not know what is the way of the wind, Or how the bones grow in the womb of her who is with child, So you do not know the works of God who makes everything. ⁶ In the morning sow your seed, And in the evening do not withhold your hand; For you do not know which will prosper, Either this or that, Or whether both alike will be good.

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The Value of Persistent Faithfulness ACT IN FAITH DESPITE Our Ignorance of The Future

Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!

▶ When dealing with God, there will always be that element of mystery (7:2)

* There are many things we cannot comprehend - Deut 29:29; Rom 11:33

* If we really trust God we will continue to obey His commands, even if and when we do NOT fully understand the why or how - 2 Ki. 5

A "FAITH" Based Perspective

The Joy of Faithfulness Faithfulness Brings Fulfillment

Ecclesiastes 11:7-8 (NKJV)

⁷ Truly the light is sweet, And it is pleasant for the eyes to behold the sun; ⁸ But if a man lives many years And rejoices in them all, Yet let him remember the days of darkness, For they will be many. All that is coming is vanity.

"When one acts benevolently and works diligently as Koheleth has previously advised, life is worth living, and affords continuous enjoyment for the faithful worker."

- Smith, J. E. (1996). The wisdom literature and Psalms

A "FAITH" Based Perspective

The Joy of Faithfulness

Faithfulness Brings Fulfillment

Be anxious for nothing...I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

- ▶ There is beauty in every stage of life - (Ecc 3:1-11)
- ▶ True joy can only be realized by seeing things through the eyes of faith - (Phil 4:6-13)

A "FAITH" Based Perspective

The Earlier The Better

Remember God In Youth

Remember NOW your CREATOR

Ecclesiastes 12:1

- ▶ True joy is only experienced in obedience to God - 11:9
- ▶ We will give account - 11:9
- ▶ So be joyful - be holy - youth will not last - 11:10

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The Earlier The Better

Remember God In Youth

Remember NOW your CREATOR

Ecclesiastes 12:1

Before difficult days come (12:1-2)

- * Strength is lost, lose teeth - (12:3)
- * Everything becomes more difficult, hearing loss - (12:4)
- * Weak and feeble, gray headed, no pleasure in things once enjoyed - (12:5)
- * Death, people mourn - (12:6)

A "FAITH" Based Perspective

"Life Under the Sun" Will End

Ecc. 12:7-8



⁷ Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it. ⁸ "Vanity of vanities," says the Preacher, "All is vanity."

A "FAITH" Based Perspective

The Eternal Reward of Faith

Ecc. 12:13-14



¹³ Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all. ¹⁴ For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.

A "FAITH" Based Perspective

The Eternal Reward of Faith

2 Cor. 5:10



¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

The Reward Of Having

A "FAITH" Based Perspective

The Eternal Reward of Faith



- ▶ Hear the word of God - **Rom 10:17**
- ▶ Believe that Jesus is the Son of God - **John 8:24; Heb 11:6**
- ▶ By faith - **repent - Acts 17:30**
- ▶ By faith confess Jesus - **Rom 10:10**
- ▶ Be baptized into Christ for the remission of sins - **Acts 2:38; Rom 6:3-6**
- ▶ Live by faith - **1 Cor 15:58; 2 Pet 1:5-10**