

## HOW DO WE LIVE IN AN UNCERTAIN WORLD?

(Ecclesiastes 11:1-6)

...Life is unpredictable and mysterious. Life is iffy. We do not know what will happen in the next minute. Life is filled with uncertainties. So how do we respond to the uncertainties, the difficulties, the hurts, and the pains of life in light of God's providence?

...Solomon has been teaching us that apart from the Lord, life is empty and meaningless. Furthermore, he has reminded us that God rules over all, even in the details of life.

...So how do we do it? How do we live in such a world? Solomon tells us how to do it.

### **TWO GROUPS OF PROVERBS TEACHING US TO LIVE WITH GUSTO IN A WORLD OF UNCERTAINTY.** We are to live boldly and with confidence in the face of the uncertainties in life because of the certainty of God.

#### **I. We Must Live Fearlessly And With Wholeheartedness Even Though We Have No Guarantee Of Success. (vv.1-2)** We must not hide, nor simply wait to die. Go for it!!!!

- A. Solomon tells us to "cast our bread upon the waters."
  - 1. This old expression refers to putting one's grain on a ship and sending it far away with the hopes of selling it and making a profit. There were many dangers in this...
  - 2. A farmer could say, I am not going to do that...I will lose control...I will keep it all and make bread with it. If you live scared you will not have a life.
  - 3. He tells us to be bold, take a risk, even though you do not have any guarantee of success, for after awhile, the profit will come back to you.  
...Remember Jesus' rebuke to the man who hid the talent?
- B. Solomon further tells us to be smart in our activity. Since we cannot control much, and do not know the future, spread out the risk. (v.2) "give portions to 7 or 8"
  - 1. Don't just be bold and reckless, but be bold and also wise in the way you live.  
...find the balance...don't let your boldness make you foolish.
  - 2. He teaches us the principle of diversification. All because life is full of surprises.  
...Paul is a good illustration of this. He wanted to go to Rome...what a trip! The point: Jesus will get you to His destination, but en route, He makes sure you go through things that force you to trust Him!!!

#### **II. We Must Engage Life with Zeal, Knowing That It Seldom Gives Us Perfect Conditions. (vv.3-6)**

- A. Solomon tells us that we are unable to fully anticipate, prevent, or change so much of what happens in life. (vv.3-4)
  - 1. We see the clouds, (the weather) we don't know if it will rain here or there...God is in control of it. (3)
  - 2. A strong wind knocks down a tree...it may fall one direction or another...God is in control of it.
  - 3. The wind blows...but we do not know where it will go. Don't wait for the perfect conditions before you venture out!!!! (4) Don't live trying not to die.  
..."sowing"...refers to our work. Do it now.  
...too many Christians "freeze" because they suffer from "paralysis of analysis."
- B. Never forget how little you know. (5) Don't think you can even begin to know what God is doing. Of course we know the big picture of what He is doing, but we are clueless of the details.  
...try as you may, you and I cannot put it together. It is beyond us.
- C. So, don't withdraw from life. Live it to the fullest. If the Lord has put something in your heart then do it. If it is not immorality, He tells us to go for it, for we do not know whether He will bless it with success or not. (6) Try different things. Don't live in fear. Give yourself every chance to succeed.

### **LESSONS FOR OUR LIVES:**