

Ecclesiastes VIII

Preparation for the Future

Ecclesiastes 11:1-10

- I. LABOURING FOR THE FUTURE (Ecclesiastes 11:1-6)
 - a. The Future Return (Ecclesiastes 11:1)
 - i. You don't know what the return for your faithful labour will be
 - ii. You're just commanded to do it
 - iii. Do it everywhere (Isaiah 32:20; 2 Corinthians 9:6)
 - iv. Do it soon (Luke 10:2)
 - v. The reaping is soon (John 4:35; Galatians 6:9-10)
 - b. The Future Trouble (Ecclesiastes 11:2-3)
 - i. "Give a portion unto seven, and also to eight" (Galatians 6:10; 1 Timothy 6:17-19)
 - 1. Do it while you can
 - 2. Do it as often as possible
 - ii. The time may come when you will not be able to sow as easily
 - iii. The "evil" times may/will come
 - 1. When you will not be able or as easily do the work
 - 2. Giving to the necessities of the saints
 - 3. Preaching the word of God (2 Timothy 4:3)
 - c. The Hinderances Therein (Ecclesiastes 11:4)
 - i. The practical
 - 1. Men will not sow because of the weather – Procrastination in labour
 - a. This can be brought on by undue fear
 - b. Or by laziness and slothfulness
 - 2. The wind and the rain are in God's hands, we should work while it is possible – Life must be walked by faith
 - ii. The spiritual
 - 1. Men will not do the work they're called unto because they're caught up on a "hobby horse" doctrine
 - a. This is prevalent amongst Ind. Baptist
 - b. Some will spend all their time on one or two "doctrines" and will drive those few home, many times even fighting other believers that don't see the "truth".
 - 2. God has not called us to do this – we are to preach/teach the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:20, 27; cp. 2 Timothy 4:2)

- d. Trusting in the Lord for it All (Ecclesiastes 11:5)
 - i. The wind and the rain are in God's hands
 - ii. The outcome is the Lord's (John 15:5; 1 Corinthians 3:7)
 - iii. "Thou knowest not the way of the spirit" (John 3:8)
 - iv. "Thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all. (Ecclesiastes 8:17)
- e. Even in the Unknown (Ecclesiastes 11:6)
 - i. Sow the Seed in the morning (Isaiah 55:10-11) – (Early in life: at 5yrs, 10yrs, 20yrs, 30yrs.)
 - 1. Sow in righteousness (Hosea 10:2)
 - 2. Sown in peace (James 3:18)
 - ii. Reap in the evening (Psalm 126:6) – (Later in life: 55yrs, 60yrs, 70yrs.)
 - 1. Finding your labour was not in vain (Ecclesiastes 11:1; John 4:36-38)
 - 2. God will give you your reward for faithfulness (Ecclesiastes 9:1)

II. PREPARING FOR THE LATTER END (Ecclesiastes 11:7-10)

- a. The Good Times and the Length of Life (Ecclesiastes 11:7)
 - i. Wisdom during this time (Ecclesiastes 7:11)
 - ii. The Lord blesses with goodness (Matthew 5:45)
- b. The Days of Trials and Troubles (Ecclesiastes 11:8)
- c. Enjoying the Years (Ecclesiastes 11:9)
 - i. Joy comes from a heart that is right with God (Ecclesiastes 12:1) – "In thy youth"
 - 1. As a young man
 - a. Without all the regrets of life
 - b. Without all the mistakes in life
 - 2. Can also come to one that turns to Christ
 - ii. Walk in the ways of thine heart
 - 1. Make sure your heart is in tune with God (Numbers 15:39-40)
 - a. Remembering all the commandments of God
 - b. That ye might be holy before God
 - iii. "But know thou" (Ecclesiastes 12:14; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 2 Corinthians 5:10, 11; Hebrews 9:27)
 - 1. Judgment will be made
 - 2. An answer will be made
- d. The Appeal Made (Ecclesiastes 11:10)
 - i. Remove sorrow that comes from Sin (2 Corinthians 7:1)
 - ii. Put away evil from thy flesh – Keep thy heart with all diligence (Proverbs 4:23)
 - iii. This mentality and thought process will carry us into chapter 12.
 - iv. Solomon is nearing the end of his life – A man's last words tell you a lot about the man.