

In the Grave Wither Thou Goest

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~ Our previous several reports from Ecclesiastes in our Spiritual Safari have not been nice – at all. Well, in this report, it gets worse. Much worse. In fact, this and the next two reports will be so strong that I am going to suggest no one read any more of the remainder of our safari through the Book of Ecclesiastes. I suggest you read the Scriptural text; and then, read the Scriptural text again – after praying for wisdom, judgment and discernment; then, if you must – continue your safari at your own psychological peril. We'll subtitle this report the psychological safari. If you are actually reading my reports and comprehending this section of Scripture properly, correctly and completely, and if this part of the Word of God is not having a mind-changing affect upon you, then you will want to examine yourself, and see if you are in the faith.

We are examining the man under the sun and his inevitable, erroneous conclusions to life's problems, his flawed and fallible philosophies, health problems, disappointments, general failures, heartache from friends, and heartbreak from loved ones. We have previously considered mankind's pseudo-philosophies on safari in Ecclesiastes, which man has self-custom-engineered as the result of his total and complete ignorance of the Word of God – and abject rebellion towards God. All the while he pretends to be a “do-gooder” – pretending to be a beautiful person, perfect in the community; but who is really just a pious, proud, pygmy of a self-promoting and inwardly-centered prejudiced person whose preposterous profession and perfectly implausible prose are predicated entirely on false premises; I *P-R-O-M-I-S-E* you that to be true. The unbelieving man under the sun wants to think that he is apart from God – and he is; except that Christ, through His omnipresence, is always there. Call it a one-sided relationship, but the Lord Jesus Christ Himself — Who is our Personal Perfect Psychiatric Physician — is examining all of mankind — lost and saved — in the light —

right before our very eyes — whether we like it or not. Some of it is not pretty.

Death brings total integration to the natural man; a place where all people become equal. While there is life there is hope. When we die, the saved man becomes absent from the body and present with the Lord; but the unsaved man goes to the place of torment, where they are reserved in chains in blackness and darkness until they are judged and sent into some degree of eternal torment. Now, you can petition and protest that reality all day long, and you might even temporarily trick yourself into believing it's not true, and that this life's death ends it all — but it doesn't — and I can promise you God is not going to change His mind about how it plays out in eternity. We make our decision now, my friends. So, let's try to read this text with some semblance of a Christian point of view, and see where that gets us; it makes a tremendous difference what we do on this earth and how we do it....

IX

10 Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.

11 I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all.

12 For man also knoweth not his time: as the fishes that are taken in an evil net, and as the birds that are caught in the snare; so are the sons of men snared in an evil time, when it falleth suddenly upon them.

13 This wisdom have I seen also under the sun, and it seemed great unto me:

14 There was a little city, and few men within it; and there came a

great king against it, and besieged it, and built great bulwarks against it:

15 Now there was found in it a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city; yet no man remembered that same poor man.

~ So, as if our opening to this book wasn't weird enough, as we were introduced to the Alice in Wonderland of the Word of God that is Ecclesiastes, we now come to a city where we find a poor man named wisdom. Christ has been made unto us wisdom. In His earthly ministry, Jesus was very poor; He said, *"the foxes have holes, and the birds have nests but the Son of Man hath not where to lay His head."* The homeless are never listened to — but the voice of the Lord Jesus through the Word of God shall prevail forevermore; irrespective of what mankind decides to do. Even above the myriad chatter of every man we could name, Christ's voice will prevail unto His children — in His Word — forevermore.

Christ is better than weaponry and warfare. However, one sinner can destroy a whole lot of good. The tremendous influence of a very small group of people – and even an individual – when they lead an evil life, can be mind-bogglingly far-reaching in affect. It always seems to be more potent when it goes in the direction of evil, too. Adam's sin infected this entire human race. Achan had a single hidden sin that caused his entire nation to suffer defeat. Rehoboam's blatantly cruel sin of increasing the taxes on the nation Israel divided the kingdom; and that led directly to their captivity. Sin never works out, friends – don't kid yourself. Most Christians do not understand that the smallest of events in our lives can be more far-reaching than we'll ever know. When the big things we choose to do are not of pure and good intent, they ruin families, break homes, break hearts, and destroy lives....

16 Then said I, Wisdom is better than strength: nevertheless the poor man's wisdom is despised, and his words are not heard.

~ So, it can also be said that wisdom is better than warfare; and everyone has an influence for Christ. Good or bad — lost or saved — we will ALL glorify Christ, my friends. Take a few moments and think that over. No man

liveth unto himself. In the school, in the business world, and in the community – you have an influence. Even if you are in prison — in total and complete isolation — you have an influence on a God-appointed group of people. That rule of law cannot be escaped; and it applies to the lost as well as the saved. The “do-gooder” today who is boasting that they are more moral than God is the greatest detriment to world society – period. These people can literally block the way to God for others – and they do. As soon as world leaders think they can live without God, and do good things, you can know very definitely that the nation they represent is slated for destruction....

17 The words of wise men are heard in quiet more than the cry of him that ruleth among fools.

18 Wisdom is better than weapons of war: but one sinner destroyeth much good.

~ Your friends and family know what kind of person you are, friends – even if you do not know yourself. They know whether you are honest and sincere; or if you are a fraud and a phony. They also know if you really mean business with the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior – or not. One way or another, we are all judged on that basis by the world. Your life suggests whether or not there is a Heaven to gain and hell to fear. You cannot mute that fact in your mind if you are reading this report – impossible. Andrew didn’t preach on the Day of Pentecost; but he sat and watched his brother preach. They couldn’t both give the sermon, of course. I think Andrew taught Simon Peter everything he knew. Andrew brought Peter to Jesus, you will recall. Well, that, remarkably and amazingly, leads us into chapter ten where we see how the injustice of this life suggests the adoption of a very moderate course....

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1 Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour: so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honour.

~ One small act of foolishness can lead to a lifetime of very big problems with tragic consequences that may never go away. Some acts can never be resolved. I am sure we can all think of many examples of this. A Godly mother can spend two and a half decades trying to raise a fine young man of her son, when a cold and vindictive woman comes along and makes a fool out of him in one night. All it takes is a little foolishness, friends – just a tiny area of rot on the fruit, and your fruit is ruined – because God does not accept it - period. Once your life has that blight, then all you have to do is open your mouth to reveal you are an idiot – and sometimes you don't even have to say a word. *THAT* is what's real, my beloved....

2 A wise man's heart is at his right hand; but a fool's heart at his left.

3 Yea also, when he that is a fool walketh by the way, his wisdom faileth him, and he saith to every one that he is a fool.

4 If the spirit of the ruler rise up against thee, leave not thy place; for yielding pacifieth great offences.

5 There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, as an error which proceedeth from the ruler:

6 Folly is set in great dignity, and the rich sit in low place.

7 I have seen servants upon horses, and princes walking as servants upon the earth.

8 He that diggeth a pit shall fall into it; and whoso breaketh an hedge, a serpent shall bite him.

9 Whoso removeth stones shall be hurt therewith; and he that cleaveth wood shall be endangered thereby.

~ The dignity that has been given to sin in our day is astonishing; and it is responsible for all of the problems we have in *all* societies — according to

If you erroneously theorize that there will be no judgment for sins, you are mistaken. I didn't say that. God says that. Societies world-wide are making sin prominent with a perversion of all things. Some call it art – and some call it worship. Whatever sin is, friends, you better figure it out for yourself – because it's filthy and dirty to God. Anything not done in faith is sin. Just be honest with yourself, for a change: we all know what sin is; irrespective of whether we will admit our faults to ourselves and confess them to the Lord Jesus Christ or not. If you think you will get by forever with your sins, you are woefully gullible and naïve, indeed. When we sow to the flesh, we will reap the corruption of the flesh. These are truths we can depend on. What a picture we end with in this leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God....

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