



Madness is in Their Heart



Ecclesiastes 9:1 – 14

~ Our Spiritual Safari continues to examine the equivalent of the Alice in Wonderland of the Word of God in the Book of Ecclesiastes. Some of the teachings in this book are wildly radical and difficult to process in our minds. This is *NOT* the Christian viewpoint — and it is *NOT* God's viewpoint — but the viewpoint of natural man attempting to live without God, according to his own flawed philosophies; and this is the most abused part of the Word of God by the atheist. Volney and Voltaire both quoted profusely from Ecclesiastes. It fosters the same pessimistic world-view Schopenhauer subscribed to. This is where man is trying to be happy without God. Further, most of the modern-day cults and isms predicate their thesis on this book – and particularly on *this* chapter. This chapter is also where the erroneous theology of “.... *soul sleep*” comes from, by the way.

It is easy to wonder why this book is even in the canons of Scripture. Its teachings are indescribably difficult to reconcile with the tenets of Scripture. Harmonizing these statements with our Christian faith seems nearly impossible — because it is impossible. Well, friends, when considering Ecclesiastes, or any other book — particularly books of the Bible — the purpose of the writer is all-important to a rightful appreciation of its contents. Without mastery of intent in the Word of God, one will never even come close to knowing the Lord Jesus Christ. That would be impossible. Dogmatic? – You bet your life it is. Currently in this safari, we are examining man's attempt at life apart from God. Some of you may want to stop reading right here — because this report will certainly rub most people's evolutionary fur the wrong way.

We are in a section of Scripture that contradicts almost everything we have learned previously in the Bible. Specifically, we are considering what the world knows as the “*do-gooder*” type of person; and this book reveals their



character and philosophies in action. This is the person who believes that if they just pay their honest debts, and live a good life as an outstanding citizen of their community, then God automatically must accept them – or not – who cares? This is the person that always takes the middle ground on every issue, never stands for anything, and will either go get drunk with you, or go to church with you – or both; they just “*go with the flow*” – as they say.

This is the man on Main Street who has a successful career under a neon sign; lives in a gated community, drives European luxury cars, and has two point five children. They always take it easy, believe they are going to Heaven by their own goodness, and honestly and sincerely believe they are working out their salvation just by being themselves! However, when their hard exterior nutshell is cracked, it reveals an even more rigid and hardened philosophy of life. They never have any real or lasting joy. Of course, they have their evening happy hour of cocktails; whereby they become sociable and tolerable for a little while but, even then, they reach some extremely doleful conclusions of what life is about. Well, these are the conclusions that the natural man under the sun must inevitably come to.

The man we are talking about now is the self-labeled progressive who believes in dividing the wealth and generic equality. They hold to socialistic ideas that are utterly inaccurate and have never worked in any society. Life is one big lottery to this person. This man is always the victim of circumstances, too. He is the man of the world – the natural man. Perhaps I can demonstrate him scientifically: halfway between high-tide and low tide is mean-tide. Mean-tide is sea-level. Now, there is a realm of life *below* sea level, and a realm of life *above* sea level. Two wholly separated worlds. Below sea level there are certain chemical elements that comprise the environment; above sea level it is comprised of different molecules. Below sea level is aqueous; above sea level is gaseous. Above sea level we have an eagle that can fly very high. Below sea level we have two forms of life: that which sees some light — and that which doesn’t see any light — ever. Well, the eagle never tells the shark what Sharkey’s problems are; that is, the eagle doesn’t insult the shark by saying that, because he doesn’t have

feathers, he cannot fly. The eagle breathes deeply in frustration with the shark, but could never breathe underwater. Well, these two characters have a debate about which direction sea level really is. The eagle says sea level is down; the shark says sea level is up. Both are diametrically opposed, and absolutely correct; except for from the others perspective – where they are wholly wrong.

Ecclesiastes is *UNDER* the sun. The Christian life is *ABOVE*, seated in the Heavenlies, with Christ. God's viewpoint is *above* the sun – and *W-A-Y* above the sun, I should add – and that's the perspective of the two ways of life we are learning about in Ecclesiastes. Under the sun is a mundane existence of problems, health crises, heartbreak, disappointment, half-baked theories that never deliver what they promise, and death. They try not to think about an eternal future without God — which they don't know anything about — but with which they become more and more obsessed with disproving — along with all of those things they deny even exist in the first place; mainly, that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins, and was raised for our justification, and that the Bible is the inerrant and infallible Word of God — so they become totally given over to regret and despair; although they will never admit *any* of that. Their dealings with others become absolutely meaningless and spiritually dead....

1 For all this I considered in my heart even to declare all this, that the righteous, and the wise, and their works, are in the hand of God: no man knoweth either love or hatred by all that is before them.

2 All things come alike to all: there is one event to the righteous, and to the wicked; to the good and to the clean, and to the unclean; to him that sacrificeth, and to him that sacrificeth not: as is the good, so is the sinner; and he that sweareth, as he that feareth an oath.

3 This is an evil among all things that are done under the sun, that there is one event unto all: yea, also the heart of the sons of men is full of evil, and madness is in their heart while they live, and after that they go to the dead.

4 For to him that is joined to all the living there is hope: for a living dog is better than a dead lion.

5 For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten.

6 Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun.

7 Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart; for God now accepteth thy works.

8 Let thy garments be always white; and let thy head lack no ointment.

9 Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun.

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:

~ Life on earth is futile and despairing for some people. They don't care if they came from an animal, they just want to live like an animal; and sometimes as a highly-refined religious animal, to be sure. They want to be the animals with the most stuff, and they need be seen as topping the top of the "do-gooder's" food chain. Well, when we place this flesh that can hold a pen and think about what to write, in the grave — it won't do those things anymore. You will be raised either to salvation or unto eternal damnation. Everyone is going to answer to God; but an atheist believes none of this to be true. They have a fatalistic viewpoint in life that is just like a fish caught in the net. Horrible. How long should God give these people to turn to Him?

The Christian life is in direct opposition to every "do-gooder" philosophy King Solomon pursued. We are saved by the grace of God through faith; not of ourselves. We are an earthly display of His grace. The laws and principles that apply to the eagle could never apply to a shark. There is no need to quote Paul to an unbeliever saying, "*....if ye are risen with Christ seek those things which are above.*" Talking in those terms to an unbeliever is a waste of your time. You're trying to teach a shark to fly. Well, the shark isn't interested in flying. There's not enough stuff in the air for him to eat.

Thackeray was a Christian who wrote a play about the littleness and small-minded thinking of certain men during the wars of Napoleon. It revealed the narrowest of minds apart from God. At the conclusion it reads, "*....the play is over; we'll now put the puppets back in the box.*" This life is complete vanity, my beloved — and vexation of spirit. You can write the title for Thackeray's play over each and every Hollywood celebrity — bar-none. Verse one of this chapter can be easily reduced to, "*.... I don't know anything whatsoever.*" Every one of Solomon's experiments in life were abject failures. Thus far in our Spiritual Safari through the entire Word of God, we have seen that Solomon tried everything under the sun in his search for satisfaction; but he, apparently, ended up writing a song called

".... I Can't Get No Satisfaction." If you haven't read our last eight reports from Ecclesiastes, I highly suggest you go back and do so now. All of our Scripture reading in this book must be interpreted in the light and "under the sun;" and also that Solomon said, *".... of the making of books there is no end"* — but I digress ~

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