

Study of Ecclesiastes Chapters 5-12

WORSHIP GOD IN FEAR AND FAITH

Solomon speaks of the proper way to approach the Lord in His house.

Read 5:1–7.

Q 15: What are the different ways a believer and a hypocrite each approach God?

GOD ALONE GIVES JOY IN LIFE

Solomon compares the experiences of those who put all their efforts toward accumulating wealth with those who seek to serve God and share with others.

Read 5:8–20.

Q 16: Why is it vain to pursue wealth just for the sake of being wealthy?

THE EMPTINESS OF WEALTH WITHOUT GOD

Solomon shows the evil ways wealth is used in this world.

Read chapter 6.

Q 17: Why does wealth have such a pull on our sinful, covetous hearts?

3. DIVINE WISDOM ENABLES YOU TO LIVE WISELY

ECCLESIASTES 7:1—12:8

In the coming chapters, Solomon contrasts life governed by sinful reasoning with life governed by the wisdom of faith.

WISDOM VERSUS FOLLY

The wise are patient, trusting the Lord will make all things right. Fools fail to learn from life's lessons.

Read 7:1–24.

Q 18: What would you say to someone who told you the Christian life is all about denying oneself joy and pleasure and wallowing in sorrow and grief?

SIN HAS CORRUPTED RELATIONSHIPS

Though God created man in His image—upright and holy—our sinful nature plunges us into all sorts of folly and damages our relationships with one another.

Read 7:25–29.

Q 19: What is ironic about Solomon's statement that he has found one good man in a thousand, but not one good woman in one thousand?

WISDOM ABOUT HUMAN AUTHORITIES

Solomon turns to the civil authorities God has placed over us.

Read 8:1–9.

Q 20: What should our relationship with civil authorities be like?

Q 21: How did Jesus model this in His trial before Pontius Pilate?

THE WICKED RECEIVE HUMAN PRAISE

What we should think when it appears that evildoers are prospering in this life, while our good deeds go unnoticed and unappreciated.

Read 8:10–13.

Q 22: Why doesn't God often punish ungodly people speedily?

THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED WILL DIE PHYSICALLY

There is no distinction; each person must die and then face God's judgment.

Read 9:1–3.

Q 23: Where can believers find comfort when looking at the fact that all of us must die—without any distinction from unbelieving evildoers?

Read 9:4–6.

Q 24: What earthly hope is Solomon speaking about in this passage?

GOD DESIRES THAT WE ENJOY LIFE

Solomon encourages us to live by faith, enjoying the good gifts God has given us.

Read 9:7–10.

Q 25: What attitude should Christians have toward food, possessions, and money?

VICTORY GOES TO THE HUMBLE

Despite our most diligent planning, life goes God's way, not ours.

Read 9:11–18.

Q 26: What did Solomon mean when he said, "Time and chance happen to them all" (Ecclesiastes 9:11)?

FOOLISH AND WISE LEADERSHIP

Solomon shows us the difference between living wisely and living foolishly.

Read chapter 10.

Q 27: Why would people choose sinful folly over God's wisdom?

PERFORM YOUR GOD-GIVEN VOCATION

Solomon encourages us to be generous, avoid being indecisive, and work hard for the Lord and His people while we have the time, strength, and opportunity.

Read 11:1–8.

Q 28: Have you ever been afraid of making the wrong decisions in life? How can you advise someone who is indecisive out of fear of making the wrong choice?

IN YOUR YOUTH REJOICE AND BELIEVE IN
YOUR CREATOR

Solomon urges us to live our lives the best we can—trusting God’s forgiveness— and not procrastinate until our last years when we no longer have the strength and health to make a powerful contribution to the world around us.

Read 11:9—12:8.

Q 29: Why does Solomon point out the frailty of old age?

Q 30: Does that mean we will have nothing to contribute when we are old and frail, or gravely ill?

Q 31: How does Solomon give us a hint of eternal life?

***CONCLUSION: FEAR GOD AND
OBEY HIS COMMANDMENTS***

ECCLESIASTES 12:9–14

Solomon concludes his writing with an appeal to fear God and delight in His Word.

Read 12:9–14.

Q 32: What is Solomon’s answer to the vanity of our earthly lives?