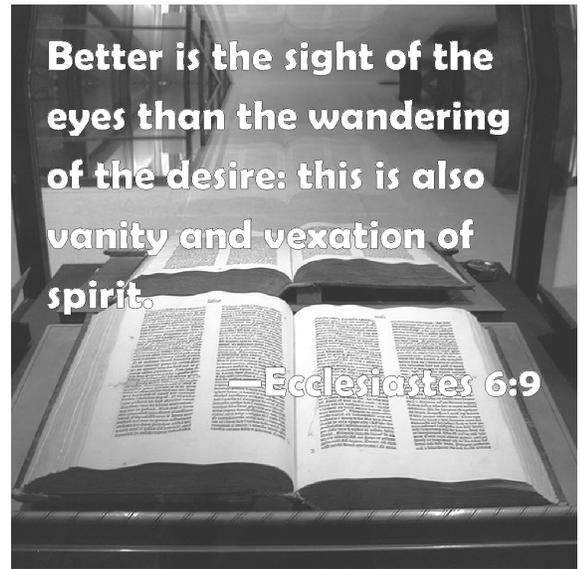


A BIBLE STUDY OF THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES

Theme: Solomon and Jesus,
Both Sons of David, say:

**“Fear God and keep his commandments,
For this is the whole duty of man!”**

Trinity Lutheran Church- Norman, Oklahoma
Pastor David Nehrenz Date: 10-11-15 Lesson: 6



A. TEXT (Chapter 6)

(1) There is an evil that I have seen under the sun, and it lies heavy on mankind: (2) a man to whom **God** gives wealth, possessions, and honor, so that he lacks nothing of all that he desires, yet God does not give him power to enjoy them, but a stranger enjoys them. This is vanity; it is a grievous evil.

(3) If a man fathers a hundred children and lives many years, so that the days of his years are many, but his soul is not satisfied with life's good things, and he also has no burial, I say that a stillborn child is better off than he. (4) For it comes in vanity and goes in darkness, and in darkness its name is covered.

(5) Moreover, it has not seen the sun or known anything, yet it finds rest rather than he. (6) Even though he should live a thousand years twice over, yet enjoy no good--do not all go to the one place? (7) All the toil of man is for his mouth, yet his appetite is not satisfied.

(8) For what advantage has the wise man over the fool? And what does the poor man have who knows how to conduct himself before the living?

(9) Better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of the appetite: this also is vanity and a striving after wind.

(10) Whatever has come to be has already been named, and it is known what man is, and that he is not able to dispute with one stronger than he.

(11) The more words, the more vanity, and what is the advantage to man?

(12) For who knows what is good for man while he lives the few days of his vain life, which he passes like a shadow? For who can tell man what will be after him under the sun?

STUDY NOTES:

1. The fool accumulates much without God and someone else will then enjoy them in the future (**Ps 17:14; 73:7; Job 21:7-13; Lk 12:20**).
2. The lack of a proper burial is tragic (**Jer 8:2; 22:18,19**)
3. The reality of stillborn children (**Nu 6:25; Job 3:3,16; Ps 58:8**)
4. Things that happen have already been named – but still God is in control (**Job 9:32; Is 45:9; Rom 8:29; 1 Cor 10:22**)
5. Life is like a shadow passing through (**1 Chr 29:15; Job 10:20; 14:2; 20:8; Ps 39:6**)
6. Only in God's Son, the coming Messiah, can any meaning be found in life (**Jn 14:6; 16:33; Ac 4:12; Heb 12:2,3; 13:16-21**)
7. Truly it is best to daily contemplate that all good things come from God alone! (**Mark 10:18; James 1:17,18; 1 Pet 2:1-5**)

Luther's Works AE 15:96,97

“To see the sun” is Hebrew for “to enjoy things and take pleasure in them.” For this physical life has the sun as a sort of very sacred divine power, one that is supremely necessary for moral men. Without it everything seems and is sad, as Christ also says (John 12:35; 11:9): “He who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes. But if anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world.” Therefore it is a most pleasant thing that the sun shines.

But the miser does not look at the light, he does not view the sun; that is, he does not think what a good thing light is, nor does he look at any creature as something to enjoy and to use well. For he has lost every consideration of the blessings, the creatures, and the things of God on account of his greed. He never sees what an outstanding gift of God it is that the sun rises every day. He thinks of nothing, wonders at nothing, yearns for nothing—except money.

In the same way the ambitious man looks at nothing except honors. The lover does not look at his own wife but is always looking at another woman. That is, such people do not enjoy the good creatures that are present now. Thus the wicked begin their hell in this life, because they are deprived of the use of all the creatures and gifts of God, so that they never see the sun, which we nevertheless have every day. In other words, they do not rejoice in the gifts of God but are always looking for something else.”

LIFE APPLICATION

1. “His soul is not satisfied with life's good things”
 - Why does this happen to us without God in our lives?
2. “What advantage has the wise man over the fool?”
 - What is your response to this question?
3. “The more words, the more vanity, and what is the advantage to man?”
 - How do we express this today?
4. “Who knows what is good for man while he lives the few days of his vain life?”
 - Where do we find an actual answer to this question?

