

ECC. 6:1-7:14 - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

GOOD DAYS, BAD DAYS, - ([SERMON MP3](#))

Reflect on the following paradoxes from our study of Ecclesiastes 6-7 in light of your own experience. When have they proven true in your own life? Write down 1 or 2 instances where you have experienced each lesson.

Prosperous times can be painful. (Ecc. 6:1-9)

Painful times can be prosperous. (Ecc. 7:1-12)

Review Ecc. 6:1–6, then read Ecc. 2:24, 5:19. The ability to find joy and satisfaction in the prosperous times of life isn't automatic. It doesn't just happen. God's gifts and the enjoyment of those gifts are two separate things.

- *Why can't we enjoy the gifts of God apart from God? What does it look like in your own life when you attempt this?*
- *Where can we find contentment? Where should we go for the resources to maintain contentment in trying times? (See 1 Thess. 5:18, Phil. 4:11-13, John 6:27)*

In Ecc. 6:3, we read about a man who has the gifts of God, but doesn't seek God for the enjoyment. Solomon says that a stillborn child is better off than he is.

- *Though this is shocking, it is not a new theme in the Bible. Note the biblical characters who felt similarly. What led to each of these people's struggles? How is their struggle similar to what Solomon describes?*

Moses (Num. 11:15)

Elijah (1 Kings 19:4)

Job (Job 3: 21; 7:15)

Jeremiah (Jer. 8:3, 15:10)

Jonah (Jonah 4:3)

Paul (2 Cor. 1:8–11)

- *Why do so many people give in to a sense of futility and take their lives? How does Solomon speak to this futility? What might he say to those who feel lost and purposeless? What can we do as a church to help people overcome the feelings of futility? **

To the Hebrew, naming something is the same as declaring what that thing is really like. (Ecc 6:10-12) When God created the world, He named what He made, and nothing can change those designations. "Light" is "light" and not "darkness"; "day" is "day" and not "night." (Is. 5:20)

- *What does the name God gave us (Adam - "man") mean? _____ (See Gen. 2:7; 3:19.) What does that teach us about how God designed us? How does this match Solomon's wisdom about the meaning of life?*

Solomon says that God has intentionally limited us so that by ourselves, we cannot know what is after us. (Ecc. 6:10-12) Are there any big questions about your life that you wish you had the answers for?

- *Applying what we are learning in this study, do you think you would be happy if you had answers to all of your difficult questions? Why or why not?*
- *Would it be easier or harder to trust God if you had all the answers? How does God use our limitations to help us grow closer to Him?*

