



# The World of the Eccleciates and the Son of Songs



White Young Jeon

CEMF

## The Ellicleiates World

### Preface

구약의 시가서 중 전도서와 아가서는 내용상 영암의 대조를 이루는 책이지만 구속의 빛아래서 두 계시는 서로보화를 이루어 구속의 진리가 어떻게 적용되는 가를 보여준다. 그리스도언에서의 부정은 금종이 숨겨있고 금전속에 부정이 가리워져있다. 전도서가 허무를 노래하지만 그 내용은 해 위의 세계 곧, 하나님 안의 진정한 풍성함이 무엇인가를 보여준다. 하나님의 말씀을 잘 깨달아 삶에 지키는 것 곧, 경건한 삶이 가장 아름답고 강한 삶을 살아가는 것이라고 결론을 내린다. 그런데도 불구하고 전도자는 해아래서의 여러가지 삶을 관 찰하고 적용한 여러방면에 있어서 체험적 행위를 통하여 얻은 허무를

여호와 경외신앙으로 해결됨을 주장한다. 그의 경외 신앙은 결국 하나 님의 성품인 의인신을 이 땅 위에 나타내는 것이라고 말할 수 있다. 하나님형상 회복의 과정을 통하여 하나님의 의인신을 나타내는 삶이 하나님 백성의 목표인 것을 체험적으로 주장하는 책이 전도서이다.

그러나 그와 대조적 요소를 가진 것처럼 보이는 아가서는 솔로몬과 술람미 여인과 사랑이야기를 그려준 개인적 이야기로 나타나지만 구속계시의 관점에서 이것은 하나님과 언약 백성 간의 사랑의 연합이 어떠함을 보여주는 그림 계시이다. 우리는 여기서 그리스도의 형상이 의의신의 근거로서 연합과 교제를 이루는 회복의 절정을 보는 것 같다.

구약시가서가 모두 그러하듯 이 두 책에서 우리는 하나님의 형상이 개인과 공동체의 삶 속에 어떻게 깊이있게 적용되었는가를 발견하고

그 형상의 적용된 모습을 본다. 이것은 그리스도 안에 거하는 삶의 아름다움을 보여주기 때문에 우리는 그리스도안의 성취될 그리스도의 형상의 맛을 즐긴다.

전화령

## Lesson 1 The survey of the Ecclesiastes

1. The author
2. Title
3. Literary style
4. Theological message
5. The Ecclesiastes in the perspective of the New Testament
6. Contents division
  - 1) 구조이야기의 서론 ( 1:1-11)
    - (1) 머릿말 (1:1)
    - (2) 코헬렛 생각의 서론 (1:2-11)
  - 2) 코헬렛의 자기 가르침 (1:12-12:7)
    - (1) 자기 일생에 관한 서론 (1:12)
    - (2) 솔로몬이 생애의 의미를 질문함 (1:13-2:26)
    - (3) 계속되는 질문 (3:1-6:9)
    - (4) 코헬렛의 지혜로운 충고 (6:10-12:7)
  - 3) 구조 이야기의 결론 (12:8-14)
    - (1) 구조이야기의 평가 (12:8-12)
    - (2) 결론: 하나님을 경외하라. (12:13-14)

### 제 2 과 구조이야기의 서론

1. 본문: 전 1:1-11
2. 요절: 전
3. 구분:

- 1) 머릿말 (1:1)
- 2) 코헬렛 생각의 서론 (1:2-11)
4. 해설:

1. There is nothing under the sun (Ecc 1:1-11)
2. Wisdom and knowledge without God (Ecc 1:12-18)
3. Pleasure in Christ (Ecc 2:1-11)
4. Wisdom and Fool (Ecc 2:12-17)
- 5.. True meaning of Work (Ecc 3:18-22)
6. Awakening Life (Ecc 3:1-11)
7. Blessing Life (Ecc 3:12-22)
8. The lamentation of a wise man (Ecc 4:1-6)
9. The power of Harmony in Christ (Ecc 4:7-12)
10. The Condition of Spiritual Leader (Ecc 4:13-16)
11. The Word that Comes Out Of the Fear of the Lord (Ecc 5:1-7)
12. The Christian View of Material (Ecc 5:8-20)
13. The Knowledge of God and the Knowledge of Man (Ecc 6:1-12)
14. Thinking at Trouble Time (Ecc 7:1-14)
15. The Life of Balance (Ecc 7:15-24)
16. Am I An Honest Man? (Ecc 7:25-29)
17. The Life of the wise man (Ecc 8:1-17)
18. Spiritual Pleasure (Ecc 9:1-10)
19. Growing up in grace (Ecc 9:11-18)
20. The Wisdom to proclaim Christ's virtue (Ecc 10:5-20)

- 21. Cast your food to the water (Ecc 11:1-8)
- 22. Prepare the day of Judgment (Ecc 12:1-8)
- 24. Essential Duty of the life (Ecc 12:9-14)

## 1. There is nothing under the sun (Ecc 1:1-11)

The words of the Preacher,<sup>a</sup> the son of David, king in Jerusalem.

2Vanity<sup>b</sup> of vanities, says the Preacher,  
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

3What does man gain by all the **toil**  
at which he toils under the sun?

4A **generation** goes, and a generation comes,  
but the **earth** remains forever.

5The **sun** rises, and the sun goes down,  
and hastens<sup>c</sup> to the place where it rises.

6The **wind** blows to the south  
and goes around to the north;  
around and around goes the wind,  
and on its circuits the wind returns.

7All **streams** run to the sea,  
but the **sea** is not full;  
to the place where the streams flow,  
there they flow again.

8All things are full of weariness;  
a man cannot utter it;  
the eye is not satisfied with seeing,  
nor the ear filled with hearing.

9What has been is what will be,  
and what has been done is what will be done,  
and there **is nothing new** under the sun.

10Is there a thing of which it is said,



"See, this is new"?

It has been already  
in the ages before us.

## Introduction

The book of Ecclesiastes does not say a simple confession and a song of emptiness of the life, but it sings "the importance of godliness" in the life. So after the author began with the emptiness of human life, soon he concluded as the essential duty of the life before God. Ecc. 12:13-14 says, "The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is **the whole duty of man.**"<sup>c</sup> 14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, with<sup>d</sup> every secret thing, whether good or evil. "Actually when we read the conclusion in this book, we can know the purpose of the book. It aims to proclaim the way, the life and the truth in Christ in the Old Testament. As Rom 15: 4 says "<sup>4</sup>For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope", it gives wisdom and consolation in his people by revealing a grand view of the whole life. In this semester I want to share the important truth of Ecclesiastes to you in the permission of the Lord. Long time ago I remember to preach this book to my congregation at every Wednesday night at Peniel Church in America above 30 years ago. Then I knew the Ecclesiastes gives more obvious way in our actual life. I believe that Cambodian church needs to understand the truth in their lives because they have lived in the Buddhism for several thousand years under the traditional culture of Angkor Wat. Although they reveal their philosophy of the life in their words, terminology, daily life, pleasure and relationship etc., they are wandering in their pride, their activities and their present troubles. At the other day, I saw that a copy machine company workers lost their service in right attitude and I thought that they can not escape out of miserable

situation without correcting their attitude. They intensely deceived the customer. Although the cartridge was not broken, they claimed to sell new one to get more amount money by a small false word. If any body leave out of the truth, he can not attain to obviously freedom and heaven peace in his life. So our book reveals the important parts in our lives because the author, Solomon was inspired by Holy Spirit. So Although the book reveals many nihilism, existentialism, secular hedonism and prosperity and successful life, we know the heavenly blessing in Christ. Just like the clearer star in dark sky of night, In the emptiness of the life we can see the obvious truth and wonderful blessing in it. So we should look at the experimentalism of evangelist and follow it to glorify God.

So we claim that the book of Ecclesiastes does not aim to reveal emptiness, vanity, but the importance of godliness. What did the text reveal us about our life?

### **First, Our life under the sun tastes the emptiness.**

Solomon who explains his profile, immediately he lamented that "Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity." (2) 5 times of "vanity" term means the emphasized character, real emptiness like before the state of creation, chaos, darkness and depth. Here, the word that all thing, all creatures, every thing was vanity, have to be applied to all time, all heart, all history, all culture and all people. So we should observe our all lives in Cambodia with this perspective.

So a certain Korean pastor regulated that the life is to sing a song of vanity in sitting down nearby the river of emptiness. We all agree it frankly. Although anybody do not know the fear of the Lord in his whole life, he shall be fallen down into the miserable seat as the tree planted under shadow, he shall live fruitless life in the world.

But when we observed his confession, we can find that the empty part is whole thing in Christ. So the evangelist stressed the abundance on the sun among the absolute emptiness. We have to listen to his confession about some areas to know the reality of emptiness. Vanity is hebel in Hebrew that have the meaning of vapor, breath. All things shall disappear

moment and moment as our breathing.

In verses 2, the evangelist introduced several parts in emptiness as followings: 1) he felt emptiness in the transition of generation. "A **generation** goes, and a generation comes, but the **earth** remains forever." (4) And also Moses confessed the emptiness in the change of generation "You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!"<sup>4</sup>For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night. <sup>5</sup>You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning: <sup>6</sup>in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers. <sup>7</sup>For we are brought to an end by your anger; by your wrath we are dismayed. <sup>8</sup>You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence. <sup>9</sup>For all our days pass away under your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh." (3-9)

And also as I believed Jesus as my savior and my Lord 56 years ago in South Korea. Then I wanted to become a good pastor and a revival preacher etc. Now I preach the word of God in my actual life. Moreover I remember my past event for serve the Lord Jesus Christ. Although now I think very young man in my heart but actually I am a old man. The life is moment. Why did the evangelist felt vanity in generational stream?

Because he saw meaningless state in it, he confessed every generation is emptiness.

2) And he felt vanity as he observed unchangeable things in his environment. Really our life was not changed easily. Verses 5-7 says, "<sup>5</sup>The **sun** rises, and the sun goes down, and hastens<sup>c</sup> to the place where it rises. <sup>6</sup>The **wind** blows to the south and goes around to the north; around and around goes the wind, and on its circuits the wind returns. <sup>7</sup>All **streams** run to the sea, but the **sea** is not full; to the place where the streams flow, there they flow

again.”

Actually we see the continuous repeatation in all activities, sun moon and stars, year, month, day, wind, water, river ocean, etc. In a short word, the same things flows in our lives. So we feel much malise, weariness in our life, So we have frustration, darkness and emptiness in our heart. As Augustain confessed, “ Unless we are filled wiith God, we seem to be swimming in the ocean of emptiness. Although he enjoyed common grace in his life, he observed the vernity in common grace by the illustration of Holy Spirit. Because he found himself in the absolut poverty. We need this foundings in our lives.

### **Second, The life under sun has no sufficiency to himself.**

And also the life who lives in vernity in all things, and he experiences un sufficient heart to himself because he found a limited being in himself. Basically God made us in his image to enjoy the eternal life, but sin came to us we lost good chance to enjoy the eternal life in our lives. Although we were made by God to aspire the eternal world, sin made us to be fallen down into emptiness, limited life in himself. So we have no contents in us. Although we are Christians, we have to learn the sufficist heart in us, So, Paul stressed, “ ” in Christ.

Although our desire of sight is happened in our heart but we have no contents. And also although the flesh desire was raised in our heart, we can not enjoy true pleasure in our heart. Before we do not listen to God’s Word. We can not enjoy true joy.

If our eye and our ear have no true contents, our heart is wandering because of absolute darkness. As Calvin said it, the man , microcosmos, can not be filled of all things iunder the sun. And also a certain is tranfered to next generation, he can not get true sufficiency in his heart. 10 says, “**10**Is there a thing of which it is said, “See, this is new”? It has been already in the ages before us.”

Generally the man thinks of the pride the good family in the world, Avtua;y I know family is the last supporter. But the Scripture stressed that we can not follow the family-

centeric life. Why? Because under the sun the family is meaningless. The evangelist told us. So our Lord warned that they are fallen down to the glory of family- ceteric life. Without having Christ cetric life , every family happiness shall be emptiness. Moreover Christ emphasized that we should not love our family more than Christ. It does not mean to despise our family but family life can not go ahead for the glory of God. So we, the chritains are very happy person in the world according to Jeus' evaluation. So we have to see ture meaning n the sun in Christ. Then we can get true sufficiency in our lives.

### **Third, the life gets the sufficiency with heavenly things on the sun.**

What do you think of Evangelist confession, Do you agree with him in your life? Yes, so do we. Where is the tru contents in the world, in all things. Where is it? The evangelist stressed that he reveals the reality behind the visible world, heavenly world. The fact that he sings the song of emptiness proved that he found the reality in shadow of emptiness. Really in the oriental philosophy emptiness means to fill of the infinitive reality. But because they do not know true God, their thought was fallen down into humanism, another emptiness. But the Sctriptide stressed that only Christ Jesus is contents, reaity and sufficiency. Really a man come to Jesus he shall have true rest. " Matthew 11:28-30 says "ome to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. [29](#)Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30](#)For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." " Now the evangelist found the fact. So he proclaimed the gospel in the Old Testament, the fear of the Lord and the obedience of his word.

Although he lived in the childish age in the Old Testament , he looked at the reality in the above in the illumination of Holy Spirit.

Actually Solomon understood the real gospel in symbolism by the work of Holy Spirit.

As we know Paul points " ". All christian should look at the above should seek the joy in our studying time. the world in Christ. Although they lives in trouble, tribulation in the world, they shall enjoy wonderful heaven abundance in Christ, glorius joy, unspeakable joy in Christ.

Ex: I listen to our students activities through face book. Then I observed their thought and their philosopjy. Although they revealed many strange thing, curious thing, and benifitable thing , I found that they lost true contents in their heart. Why? Bcause they do not know true gospel life. Although we live in the absolute emptiness in Buddhism world we should see the reality on the sun.

Conclusion.

I listened to that OM emphsied that self-support mission in mission ministry. In this semester we have to stand firm in Christ, true reality, we have to approach to God's calling by studying the Scripture and praying to God. Although our lif under the sun is emaptiness, In Christ we should enjoy heavenly renewel to glory of God.

May the grace of God be with you all.

4)

헬렛의 자기 가르침 (1:12-12:7)

(5)

자기 일생에 관한 서론 (1:12)

(6)

솔로몬이 생애의 의미를 질문함 (1:13-2:26)

(7)

계속되는 질문 (3:1-6:9)

(8)

헬렛의 지혜로운 충고 (6:10-12:7)

1.

## 2. Wisdom and knowledge without God (Ecc 1:12-18)

I the Preacher have been king over Israel in Jerusalem. [13](#)And I applied my heart<sup>f</sup> to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven. It is an unhappy business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. [14](#)I have seen everything that is done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity<sup>g</sup> and a striving after wind.<sup>h</sup> [15](#)What is crooked cannot be made straight, and what is lacking cannot be counted. [16](#)I said in my heart, "I have acquired great wisdom, surpassing all who were over Jerusalem before me, and my heart has had great experience of wisdom and knowledge." [17](#)And I applied my heart to know wisdom and to know madness and folly. I perceived that this also is but a striving after wind. [18](#)For in much wisdom is much vexation, and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow.

## Introduction:

According to the text, the preacher concluded that every knowledge and wisdom are vanity like chatching wind. The preacher reviewed with his wisdom, all things under the sun, and then he confessed, they have troubles, toil etc. " For in much wisdom is much vexation, and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow " (18)

Do you have much knowledge? Much trouble shall follow you. Do you have much wisdom? Much anxiety shall follow you. Ex: Actually the Christian has much anxiety and much troubles in Cambodia land. In my face book recently I found first an evangelism letter about Phzumbun custom to Cambodians by a student. I think that continuously we should challenge about Cambodian thinking stream and Cambodian pagan culture by the perspective of God. I means that we need the critisised thought biblically to make more biblical society in Cambodian earth. We do not want to destroy their culture but we want to transform their secular culture in Christ. This is one of our main evangelism missions. We should fight against the humanism culture in our lives. It means that we should capture the false thinking with the truth, and should make them obeyed to Christ and his word.

So we admit that the preacher's confession about knowledge and wisdom. So we should have humble heart and prohibit our boasting speaking in our lives.

Really, did the Scripture say that knowledge and wisdom is meaningless as trash? No. Although secular knowledge and wisdom are so miserable like trash , true knowledge and true wisdom we possess in our lives. So we want to learn the Scripture faithfully. II Tim 3:16-17 says, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,<sup>17</sup>that the man of God<sup>b</sup> may be complete, equipped for every good work. ". We can accomplish the complete salvation by learning the Scripture. Actually we should approach to know God because we know that the



knowledge is the life. (Jn 6:63) It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

Now we think that why the knowledge in God be blessed, why is the knowledge without God vanity?

**First, the knowledge and wisdom without having God is vanity.**

The preacher was the man of wisdom who he himself called for a king of wisdom. (12,16) But he concluded that every knowledge is meaningless. Moreover, because his testimony came out of Holy Spirit we should concentrate on his claim and also we admit the truth in humble heart. Verses 12-15 claims that Solomon studied every things and explored them in his day. He sacrificed much to get much knowledge, information He seem to have the gift of knowledge and wisdom in the power of Holy Spirit.

Then what was his conclusion to get much knowledge? It is meaningless. Hebel, emptiness, chaos and darkness. Why ? Although we do not know his reason exactly in this text, we can guess the reason in the gospel. Why did he say that all knowledge is vanity? I think that when he knows the answer he find another questions. And then we realize the limited line of man and mysterious knowledge. So what is the result of scientific research? It is mysterious. Really true scientist becomes a believer naturally. Because he find the mysterious knowledge. So the evolution does not give sufficient answers to our questions. Why do I follow reformed theology and reformed faith? Because only the teaching give me sufficient answers in my conscience. Look at Solomon's answers in the text.

Researching material aspect is concluded as a mystery. Actually when we study and study repeatedly we are faillen down into darkness. Scientiasts know little thing in the

grand system. Although we follow the principles and natural laws we can not find same answers. For example,  $1 + 1 = 2$  is right but  $1 + 1 = 1$  may be revealed in our studying. So we should be humble in our studying. Do you know material, natural laws? We do not know them.

How about the knowledge of psychology? It is infinite area. How can we know the psychology world? How can we discern the elements of a psychology world? Why does a sound person suicide suddenly for his depression? Why does the best condition person fall down into the destruction? The Scripture said one world, because of sins. So we should be humble in these things.

More important thing is the spiritual world. What do you think of the knowledge? Do you know devil, sin, angel, kingdom of God etc? Actually we treat to spiritual world that is the center of all knowledge and all wisdom. The Scripture is spiritual world, Jesus' word is spiritual and spirit. So only spiritual person can understand the reality. So we know the some of the Scripture and the system of the Scripture. So we observe the spiritual world. So our salvation should be depended on only the Scripture, the revelation. So Calvin claims only the Scripture is norm in our lives in his teaching about true Christian life. So we should attach to the Scripture with whole thinking with whole life.

And how about wisdom? Wisdom (application) is emptiness. As he studied to the madness, crazy, and disorder, he confessed that it is vanity. So James 1:9-11 said, Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, **10**and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass<sup>c</sup> he will pass away. **11**For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits..

When we apply the truth to all thing by the knowledge , we should respect the evaluation of God as my balance in my life as James did.

Ans also in Cambodia ministry. we have to learn balance ( Philipian 4:12-13) I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. **13**I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Who is gentle person wuse woman? It is the person to keep balance.

Llotd Jonse stressed that in the last da Satans target is to break balance.

According to Solomon's conclusion of knowledge and wisdom we should to the teaching in gospel. As we know the total emptiness we can get true knowledge and true wisdom.

### **Second, only the knowledge and wisdom to know God can attain to the life.**

In the text we should not say only the aspect that all knowledge are vanity. We should observe true knowledgr behide all knowledge that belong to vanty, chaos, emptiness and darknees. Verse 17 says, "And I applied my heart to know wisdom and to know madness and folly. I perceived that this also is but a striving after wind." Here to know,yada means the experimental knowledge, not theoretical knowledge. Really, it points the experienced knowledge. The preacher experienced the vanity as he was inspired by Holy Spirit. At the same time he stressed that only true knowledge can give the life to us. So we should consider the knowledge of God in our lives as the one who fears God. As we know Joseph was used as his administrative power and Bsarel and Oholiab was used by his skill to make tabernacle. And also Paul made decision to know only Christ as his hightest knowledge by throwing away the others as trash. So his knowledge and his wisdom become the holy instruments to make the churches provided the life to them. This is the knowledge that knows Good experimentally.

In our contemporary day we find the wonderful events in the secular knowledge that are source of chaos, emptiness and darkness. Then we have to return to true knowledge , special revelation , the Scripture. Then we can make the world transformed by the living knowledge.

#### Conclusion:

We thought the truth about knowledge and wisdom through true confession of the preacher. We should possess the knowledge and wisdom in gospel. So our lives should be kept in spiritual balance. This is the feature of reformed Christian life. In the world we know the emptiness and also we should know the abundant grace in Christ. We should pursue the best knowledge and most useful wisdom , Christ and his word, We should devote our whole lives to know Jesus in this day. Simply we say Jesus Jesus in our mouth but we need the unique character of Jesus in our actual life, poverty and richness. Any time any place. This is our way.

### 3. **Pleasure in Christ** (Ecc 2:1-11)

I said in my heart, "Come now, I will test you with pleasure; enjoy yourself." But behold, this also was vanity.<sup>a</sup> **2**I said of laughter, "It is mad," and of pleasure, "What use is it?" **3**I searched with my heart how to cheer my body with wine—my heart still guiding me with wisdom—and how to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was good for the children of man to do under heaven during the few days of their life. **4**I made great works. I built houses and planted vineyards for myself. **5**I made myself gardens and parks, and planted in them all kinds of fruit trees. **6**I made myself pools from which to water the forest of growing trees. **7**I bought male and female slaves, and had slaves who were born in my house. I had also great possessions of herds and flocks, more than any who had been before me in Jerusalem. **8**I also gathered for myself silver and gold and the treasure of kings and provinces. I got singers, both men and women, and many concubines,<sup>b</sup> the delight of the sons of man.

**9**So I became great and surpassed all who were before me in Jerusalem. Also my wisdom remained with me. **10**And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil. **11**Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun.

#### **Introduction:**

During my above 10 years ministry, I had felt the devil's severe work of Phchumbun day in Cambodia because I found that the churches lost much power by gathering issues

and personal faithful life. I observed 2 weeks in that situation, so I felt that we need another stragty to pastoral ministry in Cambodia. So I am making new evangelism paper and new evangelism method by meeting and small revival meeting at local church.

And I appreciate God for his aithful grace to obey his mission in Cambodia. At the last week. I got some health issue, high blood pressure that I could not treat my present situation. Then God provided his faithful grace to me. Now I keep normal state to serve him. Basically I want to serve Cambodia educational ministry until 70 years old in Christ's grace in my plan.

Today I am glad to meet you again in the word of God, the Ecclesiastes contiinously. At the other time we thought that all knowledge and all wisdom is so meaningless in the world through the preacher, Qoorlet.

Like all knowledge and all wisdom are vanity, without God, the preacher confesses that when every pleasure ( towb 562 times – good things, benefits, welfare good to sight, taste, smell, all creatures word, etc- hedonism) under the sun does not relate to the heaven, without God, they are vanity. So Ecclesiasties 2:11 says, "Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun."

But the pleasure and the peace in Christ can not be compared with the secular pleasure. Why? Because our God put it in Christ for us. Jn 15:10-11 says, "If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's

commandments and abide in his love. **11**These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. "

**First, what is the category of delight the preacher examined?**

The preacher did not study only knowledge and wisdom and he reviewed the pleasure in all arrears. 2:1 says, "I said in my heart, "Come now, I will test you with pleasure; enjoy yourself." But behold, this also was vanity." It means that every pleasure was tested by several methods and he concluded. His conclusion was the teaching of Holy Spirit. Verse 3 says "I searched with my heart how to cheer my body with wine—my heart still guiding me with wisdom—and how to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was good for the children of man to do under heaven during the few days of their life. ".

What was the category of pleasure that he examined? Verses 3-11 mention "the pleasure of body, " pleasure of work, the pleasure of possession , the pleasure of arts, and the pleasure of heart are included in his thought.

What did he study?

**First, the pleasure of body** – Verse 3 says, ""I searched with my heart how to cheer **my body** with wine—my heart still guiding me with wisdom—and how to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was good for the children of man to do under heaven during the few days of their life. ".

**Second, the pleasure of work** - verses 4 says, "I made **great works**. I built houses and planted vineyards for myself.". He tried to enjoy a great business. Although personal business aims to get much money but to enjoy the work itself because God gave the amazement of work to us. Genesis 1:28 says, "And God

blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

**Third, the pleasure of possession** - next, he reviewed the possession. Verse 5 -6 says, "I made myself gardens and parks, and planted in them all kinds of fruit trees. **6**I made myself pools from which to water the forest of growing trees." He used much gold, much silver and much good trees , like cedar kinds , nearby him , like a collector of antiques. Verse 8 says, "I also gathered for myself silver and gold and the treasure of kings and provinces.

**Fourth, the pleasure of the arts** - He studied the pleasure in the areas of the arts. He had many singers and many dancers and many wives and many concubines. Verse 7 says, " **7**I bought male and female slaves, and had slaves who were born in my house. I had also great possessions of herds and flocks, more than any who had been before me in Jerusalem. Verse 8 says, "I got singers, both men and women, and many concubines,<sup>b</sup> the delight of the sons of man".

**Fifth, the pleasure of heart** – Verse 10 says, "And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil.". He enjoyed every area with his emotion, his knowledge and his volition in his life. But what was his conclusion? It is vanity, meaningless, hebel.

Actually his conclusion is our conclusion because we believe in that holy Spirit reveals it to us through the experience of Quoolet. So we should look down such pleasure in our



lives. Why? Because the pleasure is temporary. So John emphasizes, "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. **16**For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. **17**And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever." (1 Jn 1:15-18)

## **Second, Only the pleasure in Christ is true delight.**

Here, claiming of the preacher means claiming of God, Jesus and Holy Spirit. We should know that the other side of nihilism suggests that we should long for the eternal things, that is, the heavenly optimism.

Verse 11 says, "Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun". Here we should see the spiritual pleasure in Christ.

Verse 11 says, "Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun."

As we know that, the apostle John who lived at the island Patmos was not the environment that he could not enjoy. But we find that his heart was filled with the heavenly joy. Verse 1:9 says, "I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus..

And also when we served the church we should enjoy the joy in our heart. Without enjoying this joy we can not serve Christ and see the church and our ministry. And also he can not devote himself to Christ, and he cannot live for the glory of God in eating or drinking. Then What is the joy that put in Christ? First, the joy of salvation It means it is the rejoice of remission, forgiveness. In other words, It is the joy of new heart of regeneration. Second, It is the delight of assurance through the anointing of Holy Spirit as Rom 5:5 and I Peter 1:8. "and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." "Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory," This is the unique joy that God promised to pour out to them. It is unspeakable joy. It means that Christian enjoys the glorious delight in his heart on the earth.

We serve Christ our Lord we should be filled with the glorious delight in our heart.

### **Conclusion:**

My beloved saints, we should assure the fact that the preacher concluded out of his deep research, his much experience about his pleasure. We should aspire the heavenly joy in our present situation. The world tempted us "if you go to another place you can get wonderful joy and happiness. Is it right? The Word of God says, never. Without enjoying the present joy, we can not enjoy heavenly joy in the future. So we should try to pursue hedonism in present situation, which God prepared all joyfulness in his mountain. We believe in the promise.

#### 4. Wisdom and Fool (Ecc 2:12-17)

So I turned to consider wisdom and madness and folly. For what can the man do who comes after the king? Only what has already been done. **13**Then I saw that there is more gain in wisdom than in folly, as there is more gain in light than in darkness. **14**The wise person has his eyes in his head, but the fool walks in darkness. And yet I perceived that the same event happens to all of them. **15**Then I said in my heart, "What happens to the fool will happen to me also. Why then have I been so very wise?" And I said in my heart that this also is vanity. **16**For of the wise as of the fool there is no enduring remembrance, seeing that in the days to come all will have been long forgotten. How the wise dies just like the fool! **17**So I hated life, because what is done under the sun was grievous to me, for all is vanity and a striving after wind.

#### Introduction

Until now, the preacher studied knowledge, wisdom and pleasure in his environment and he concluded that it is vanity, meaningless, and striving the wind. A certain thought that vanity, "hebel" is related to the idolatry. As we know, when Nimrod established the tower of Babel on the Sinal field, they aimed to reveal their name by blocking schattering of the people in the world. Then God made them been stopped their plan by bringing confusion of their language. Where was their vision? At one moment, their dream was disappeared like a dream in sleep. Every idolatry shall be broken in vain at one time. Just like this one, all knowledge and all wisdom under the sun shall be meaningless, chaos, confusion and

emptiness. This was the findings of the preacher.

But in the, he first, contrasted between foolishness and wisdom, the fool and the wise each other. Generally as we compare the opposite objects each other, we find new things, new obvious other insight. So in the literature world, the writers used it as major method to express his themes. For example: The Psalmist compared the blessed man of the cursed man in order to stress the importance of meditation of the word of God. As the same means, Jesus used the method in his parables. (Matthew 13:)

After he confronted two things, what were his two conclusions? First conclusion is general thing or, common thing. And another conclusion was like striving the wind.(nothing like after storming the calm state). So verse 17 says, "So I hated life, because what is done under the sun was grievous to me, for all is vanity and a striving after wind."

= Our contemporary day, the man seeks the distinguished point and also love to be treated as a different person by his neighbor. It is expressed by boasting, that is the root of every sins, arrogance, extrem egoism and the anotonomus for he is resembled to Adam.

Why should be wisdom and foolishness treated under the sun? Why does Holy Spirit identify the comparison as a same character, hebel?

**First, because two ways of wisdom and foolishness needed much toil and much struggling.**

The preacher admitted two features. What were they? 1) He admitted the different point between light and the darkness. The Scripture used the symmetrical concept between light and darkness in expressing the spiritual order. (Jn1:4,5 Jn 5:24 Rom13:12 Acts 26:16-18)

Jn1:4,5 And we are writing these things so that our<sup>a</sup> joy may be complete. This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is **light**, and in him is no **darkness** at all.

Jn 5:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from **death** to **life**.

Rom13:12 The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of **darkness** and put on the armor of **light**.

Acts 26:16-18 But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, **17**delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you **18**to open their eyes, so that they may turn from **darkness** to **light** and from **the power of Satan** to **God**, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

The preacher pointed the different point between the normal bright eyes and the blind man. The one enjoys seeing the creatures but the other can not enjoy for he can not see it. Like although there is sunshining light, without having eyes, he can not see all things, Wisdom made them walked in the light but fool made them walked in the darkness. He admitted the different points among them obviously. But when he observed them under the view of God, it is general, same common things.

Therefore we should agree with the same point between good studying and bad studying and between good brain and bad brain in the perspective of God. Therefore the Scripture stressed that the rich should say his low state and the poor should take hope his upper state in the future before God. This is our way. James 1:9-10 says, "Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. For the sun rises with its scorching

heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits. ". Verse 15 says, "Then I said in my heart, "What happens to the fool will happen to me also. Why then have I been so very wise?" And I said in my heart that this also is vanity". So we should know the present address according to the assurance of the preacher.

In my life I remembered my severe state. 13 years ago, I got a urgent disease in my life. I who was so a normal person was fallen down into the frustrated state. My half part were lost suddenly, So my wife exercised my left arm intensely. Then my left shoulder was so painful. So I was suffered for 1 month with little sleeping. Then I found that pain and no pain are general thing in my life. Then I learnt that any suffering was contoleed by God. Although we feel the destruction on moment for pain, suffering, without God's permission more painfulness does not come to us. Why? Because God rules over every things, pain , no pain, richness and poverty etc.

### **Second, because their honor shall be disappeared in the next generation.**

Verse 16 says, "For of the wise as of the fool there is no enduring remembrance, seeing that in the days to come all will have been long forgotten. How the wise dies just like the fool!" The preacher confessed that because the next generation shall not remember the affaires of the wise man and the foolish man, the different points are meaningless. The man wants to reveal his honor through many methods. Finally he found that his honor shall be disappeared like the water foam. They lives in mistake. So Apostle John warns that do not love the pride of this life in the world.

As we know, the king Saul tried to reveal his name to the world than for God's name. But he was destroyed. Although our generation memories historical materials, Actually they soon shall be disappeared. So the Scripture exhorts to respect the honor, dignity.

Ex: My teacher Yun Sun Park's honor works now in the South Korean churches. Because he lived for the glory of God faithfully.

Therefore we should work for our eternal honor, because it was remembered by God. Our day has no the concern of the future rewards because our day became actual persons. So 99% do not believe in the reward of future. But the Scripture stressed that as to what we work for the Lord we should be received by God directly. Rev 2:10 says, "Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life".

### **Third, Because they all can not overcome their death by themselves.**

Although two things (wisdom and fool) are treated at different points, in the view of God it is a general issue because suffering and honor shall be disappeared soon. So the preacher says, "For of the wise as of the fool there is no enduring remembrance, seeing that in the days to come all will have been long forgotten. How the wise dies just like the fool!". (16) The man who did not overcome death strives in vain because two things (wisdom and fool) are the general, same result before the evaluation of God.

Look at after the death of Solomon. After he passed away, his name was shone because he was used to proclaim the name of Christ. Christ had remarked his name, his wisdom to teach true wisdom to his people. So the Lord shouted out that Christ is greater person than Solomon, nay the greatest Wisdom. Solomon was a shadow of Christ. After the reality

comes to here the shadow is disappeared soon. Solomon was a tool of proclaim Christ in history. So if anybody has not related to Christ it is meaningless.

When we observe two thieves that were hanged on the cross, although the people treated them as same death, but the right thief was died the different death by faith to Christ. At the first time although he despised Christ and mocked him, but suddenly he repented and belied Jesus as his savior and his Lord. Jesus said, " Truly truly today you shall be at the paradise with me." Although everyone, everything are general under the sun, If we live in Christ, we can live as a distinguished person in the world.

The Christian who understands the result of two kinds can live the balance life in the world. As we observed apostles we can find that life.

I Peter 3:10-11 says, "Peter thought the Christian as a spiritual stranger to have heavenly hope but execute the faithful duty in suffering world. "But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies<sup>b</sup> will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness".

And also Paul also revealed his godly life as a balancing figure in Philipian 4:12-13, I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. **13**I can do all things through him who strengthens me." He can do all things in poverty and in richness. This is our life in this time.

Ex:



## **Conclusion:**

Now we have to listen to the evaluation of the Spirit. We have to solve our death in our lives.

Ex: a rich person has no the solution in his heart.. "Oh my soul I prepared all thing for me in my whole life. enjoy them." Cambodian dangerous point is to honor the money.

Mammonism. Then we should despise it. We should follow Jesus attitude at present situation. We have to learn balance in our thinking, in our assurance like Apostles,

2.

## **rue meaning of Work** (Ecc 3:18-22)

I said in my heart with regard to the children of man that God is testing them that they may see that they themselves are but beasts. **19**For what happens to the children of man and what happens to the beasts is the same; as one dies, so dies the other. They all have the same breath, and man has no advantage over the beasts, for all is vanity.<sup>b</sup> **20**All go to one place. All are from the dust, and to dust all return. **21**Who knows whether the spirit of man goes upward and the spirit of the beast goes down into

the earth? [22](#) So I saw that there is nothing better than that a man should **rejoice in his work**, for that is his lot. Who can bring him to see what will be after him?

## **Introduction:**

Long time ago in South Korea, the work (labor) had been accepted like sin or, evil, because of the influence of Confucianism and they seek the life without labor as blessing. But the Scripture mentions that labor is blessing.

As we know, as God created the man, soon God gave the labor or, the mission, that take care of all creatures by managing cultivation, subduing and ruling them to fill the image of God into all creatures. Gen1:28 says, "And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." ". Although they are not the owners of all creatures but as the stewards. After their disobedience to God's command, God did not remove labor mission, the original command in their punishment. Also God permitted the same mission. Genesis 3:17-19 says, "And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; [18](#) thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. [19](#) By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Conditionally, they should be tasted the pain in labor, taking the pain in birth and toil in cultivating the culture. It means that they shall taste thorn and thistle.

Genesis 3:18-19 says, "**18**thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. **19**By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

So we assure the fact that our all sacrifice in Christ is not the result of sin, but the blessing of common grace. Whenever we served passionately for our mission, the sacrifice shall be left in God eternally. This is our assurance of the work under the sun.

So the puritans- reformers accepted the divine character of work according to the teaching of Scripture. Ex: When they built a house, they built it in expecting 100 years for Christ's housing.

Today in the Ecclesiastes, we see the teaching of the preacher about the labor (work) *maaseh* (= all deed, all work executed by the man, like the product of olive tree). What did he understand about *maaseh*?

**First, all work have no meaning under the sun.**

The preacher revealed two reasons of his philosophy of work. The one reason is the vanity because his much sacrifice shall be transferred to next generation directly. It means he can not enjoy the result of much sacrifice in his actual life. Verse 22 says, "So I saw that there is nothing better than that a man should rejoice in his work, for that is his lot." And the another reason his much sacrifice shall be moved to the fool and may be used for the different purpose in the future. So the realist, preacher emphasized that a man should rejoice in his work. (22) Really if our sacrifice was despised in the next generation, it

is so sorrowful. For example, we can read David's sacrifices repeatedly in the proverbs, although David taught the faith of fear to God passionately to Solomon and Rehoboam, they shall be failed down into the corrupted state. Proverbs 4:16 says, "Hear, O sons, a father's instruction, and be attentive, that you may gain<sup>a</sup> insight, 2for I give you good precepts; do not forsake my teaching. 3When I was a son with my father, tender, the only one in the sight of my mother, 4he taught me and said to me, "Let your heart hold fast my words; keep my commandments, and live. 5Get wisdom; get insight; do not forget, and do not turn away from the words of my mouth. 6Do not forsake her, and she will keep you; love her, and she will guard you. "

So the preacher in the light of Holy Spirit lamented that all work under the sun it is meaningless, frustration, "hebel".

However it is understanding of the one who left out of the truth, We who knows the gospel enjoy the present work because it shall be left eternally in Christ. So we can not be frustrated in Christ. Although our external part shall be rotten, but our inner part shall be renewed in Christ day by day. "So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self<sup>d</sup> is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day." ( II Cor 4:16-18) So we know that all sacrifices for Christ has the abundant meaningful result in our lives. As I Corintian 13:1-3 says, "1If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned,<sup>a</sup> but have not love, I gain nothing. " Although every gift without love shall be lost the purpose. But with true love we can find true meaningfulness in every work. So Paul stressed that you have to long for the more excellent way, love.( I Cor 12:31)

What do you think of it? Do you have such assurance? Every sacrifice in Christ have

wonderful meaning in my life. What is best meaningfulness in the world? To get much money? To get honor? To get good family? No, we need them, but they are not the best one. The Scripture stressed that our mission to the gospel in our life, we must do the most important work for Christ. So Christ requests to do it strongly. What is it? It is that we devote ourselves to the gospel. Why? Because they shall be left in forever. Then how can we escape out of the hell of work?

**Second, by pursuing hedonism, happiness in our heart, we can overcome the chaos in our frustration.**

Although the sacrifice under the sun is vanity, there is the work of hope in the gospel. What is it? It is the happiness in heart. The man pursues secular happiness but the Christians pursue spiritual happiness, the delight of heart, the peace of soul, and the grace of spirit. As we know, Mary praised "my soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my savior (Lk 1:46-47)". Non-Christian does not know that he has the soul because their soul was dead for sins, although they claim the psychological function. But the Christian knows the existence of his spirit for the born-again event by the Holy Spirit. However, the worldly man says about the soul, but really they do not know it. So they did not treat it as an obscure thing, a secondary thing and ignoring area. But, the Christian knows that the soul is the most precious thing in his life. So their concern is set in their heart. Therefore they can enjoy righteousness, delight and peace in the Holy Spirit. In Psalms chapter 90, Moses's prayer, we find that Moses, who had much trouble in his whole life, he had enjoyed the love of God every morning. (14) "Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days."

If we enjoy his love in our situation, we can enjoy the true meaning of the hell in Christ in our lives. In other words, our greatest blessing in life is to enjoy the love of God in the world. If we enjoy the love of God, we can suffice in our suffering, in our troubles and in our piercing thing. Psalms 16:11-12 says, "Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being<sup>e</sup>

rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. [10](#)For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption.<sup>f</sup>". Our true contents is only God, God's love. So Paul emphasized that should enjoy the contents anywhere, any time in the world. Do you have it? Now we have to confess that I have contents in my life in Christ.

Then we can serve God's greatest command in the world. We believe that our most delight is the communication of Holy Spirit and the Lord, Jesus Christ. In Revelation of John, like two witnesses of the last day, we received to proclaim the prophesy with the power of Elijah and Moses to enlarge the kingdom of God.

Today we can meet the one like Simon who buy the power of Holy Spirit with money easily, but we should become the one like the Baptist John who had strong heart for God's glory in us.

### **Third, we can escape the vanity by enjoying God and his word.**

The delight in our heart is small thing but enjoying God is the most event in our lives. As we know in the first question of shorter catechism, we find that our ultimate goal is to glorify God and enjoy God fully. Do you have such enjoying in your heart?

Although we live in the full trouble world, we can live as the one who takes true meaningfulness because all sacrifice in Christ is not vanity eternally. So Paul encouraged us, "Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." (I Corinthian 15:58). So when we meditate the text, we are challenged by the preacher strongly. Work passionately for gospel and God's glory! Especially, for we who was called for by God for gospel by grace, we should sacrifice for it more over more Paul did, "But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though

it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. " ( I Corinthian 15:10)

We should confess that we can not treat our life than to proclaim the gospel in my heart.

This is our happiness, our hedonism and our power.

### **Conclusion,**

My beloved saints,

We think the meaning of our work in the confession of preacher. Although we found the meaninglessness in all work under the sun, in Christ we found true meaning in the suffering world. So we should serve to proclaim the gospel in the world. Faithfully. we can enjoy our work in the world as Paul did.

### **4. Awakening Life (Ecc 3:1-11)**

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

2a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

3a time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to break down, and a time to build up;

4a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

5a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

6a time to seek, and a time to lose;

a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

7a time to tear, and a time to sew;

a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

8a time to love, and a time to hate;

a time for war, and a time for peace.

9What gain has the worker from his toil? 10I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. 11He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, **he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.**

Introduction:

In the world-view of Christian, the consciousness of time is so important because it is the beginning of our life, the motive of creative life and the motivation of all activities. Among them the consciousness of stewardship controls every area. Contrastly the consciousness of ownership makes us lost the humble heart, the foundation of all Christian life. So Jesus said that we should live as a servant that provides proper food as to season to the others. And also Paul commanded that we should save time (to buy chance) for this is evil generation. (Eph 5:16 "making the best use of the time, because the days are evil." ) Today the text also stresses the importance of time, or, the importance of season. It means that when we live in saving the time, he lives in wisdom well.

What is the consciousness of time? The consciousness of time means to take the tension of chance. Just like Existentialist, who thinks the present time as last chance., The Christian has to take the spiritual tension in our lives. Actually the Scripture stresses the tension to us. Without adding the tension to his teaching, we cannot understand true meaning because always we should add the faith to his every sayings. As we add our true devotion to the word, the word works in our lives. (Heb 4:12-13 "For the word of



God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. **13**And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”) We need to devote ourselves to it by listening to it carefully, accepting it as my food and my life and applying it to my present life area. Then we can experience burning heart, cooling heart and hopeful heart and amazing God’s love just like two disciples towards Emmaus home town. Lk24:32 says, “They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?”.

Why should the saints have the consciousness of chance in their lives?

**First, because everything was planed by God for his purpose, we should take consciousness of chance.**

It means that everything has his purpose, his beginning and his conclusion. He is alpha and omega. Revelation 1: 8 says, “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

The man before the Lord should admit his Lordship, his ownership in his every area. It means they should admit that they are the stewards that borrows everything from God, just like a manager. The owner like a king, has responsibility to control everything, but we are servants to manage a limited part. So after salvation we have to focus on the stewardship. Stewardship products the consciousness of time.

Verse 1 says, “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: “. What does it mean? It means that everything shall be followed according to the plan of God in the beginning. In our salvation issue, Roman 8:29-30 says, “For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to

the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. **30** And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. ". Paul points the beginning of salvation, the processing of redemption and consummating of salvation shall be done by God and his plan. So the best attitude in our life must be the stewardship in my life.

Especially. The text reveals 28 times of the term "time", "eth". The preacher reveals 14 times of contrast facts, " **2a** a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; **3a** a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; **4a** a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; **5a** a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; **6a** a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; **7a** a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; **8a** a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

What does it mean? Every event in history is executed according to leading of God. It means that every event has the due time and the settled purpose.

So we should live with spiritual tension in humble heart for this economy. We should live as a good steward of time in the world.

**Second, Because everything is controlled by the hand of God, we should take consciousness of chance.**

Why should we live with the consciousness of stewardship ? Because every thing belongs to the hand of the Lord. The Lord who established the economy is the God of providence. Colossian 1:16-17 says, "6For by<sup>f</sup> him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ". Therefore we should look to the control of God and treat the time preciously. Every thing includes time, thing, man spiritual world, relationship world. Etc. emotional, business

As we know that his providence includes his interfering activities. It means that after God himself finished his work he makes us participated into the work to give consolation to us. It is the bestowment of God. So verse 9 said, " ". And verses 11 says "He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, **he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.**

".

So we should admit that every area we should accept the sovereignty Lordship and with humble heart. This is the attitude of the one who has the consciousness of chance.

**Third, Because every thing should be evaluated by God on his throne, we should take consciousness of chance.**

Verse 11 says, He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, **he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.**

". God gave the eternity in the man. Eternity (sofe) mean the end, the conclusion. The one who believes in the economy of God and his sovereignty Lordship has passion to God because he has time and purpose. Moreover he has the recognition of chance because he has lived towards the eternity. The world is temporary , limited like the mist and shadow.

The preacher said that God gave us to long for the eternity in his existence. But as the sin came to us, our aspiration was fallen down into the inclination to the other direction. After we have salvation, eternal life, we were restored into higher dimension than the original state. So although he has the hope of the eternal state, we treat to the present life in our lives because the present aspiration to the eternal world made us accept the present life importantly. Why? Because the present faith is the criteria to settle the future. The present faith shall be brought about the eternal life. Rom 10:9-10) And also present fidelity makes us take eternal rewards. ( Rev 2:10). And the present spiritual investment accomplishes the eternal inheritance.

If you are a Christian, you are called for the one who lives for eternity. So our lives live as the awakened person who is faithful in our present situation.

Conclusion:

My beloved saints,

Today morning, we thought of the meaning of our work and our toil. Our all deed shall be come out of God's eternal plan, So we should be obeyed by his will and also we

should prepare his evaluation on the throne in the last day. Our main work is studying the Scripture, the word of God. So as we study at ITCS, we should take care of our attitude in school life. We should treat our subject for God's calling and God's mission. May the grace of God be with you all.

Blessing Life (Ecc 3:12-22)

**12**I perceived that there is nothing better for them than **to be joyful and to do good as long as they live**; **13**also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is **God's gift to man**. **14**I perceived that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it. God has done it, so that people fear before him. **15**That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already has been; and God seeks what has been driven away. **16**Moreover, I saw under the sun that in the place of justice, even there was wickedness, and in the place of righteousness, even there was wickedness. **17**I said in my heart, **God will judge the righteous and the wicked, for there is a time for every matter and for every work**. **18**I said in my heart with regard to the children of man that God is testing them that they may see that they themselves are but beasts. **19**For what happens to the children of man and what happens to the beasts is the same; as one dies, so dies the other. They all have the same breath, and man has no advantage over the beasts, for all is vanity.<sup>b</sup> **20**All go to one place. All are from the dust, and to dust all return. **21**Who knows whether the spirit of man goes upward and the spirit of the beast goes down into the earth? **22**So I saw that there is

nothing better than that a man should rejoice in his work, for that is his lot. Who can bring him to see what will be after him?

Introduction:

The Scriptures is filled with the term, blessing. As soon as God created all creatures, God gave blessing to them, and God blessed to the Sabbath day and God made Abraham been a blessing and also God called the heaven that shall be completed in Christ for the kingdom of blessing. And God said that the one who was died in Christ is blessed now. Verses 12-13 defined that to enjoy the pleasure in soul is the best blessing. " **12** I perceived that there is nothing better for them than **to be joyful and to do good as long as they live**; **13** also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is **God's gift to man**. ". So we learn what the blessed life is in the text. What is the blessed life?

**First, The life that has the heavenly joy is blessing.**

The preacher said that to enjoy the joy in the whole life is blessing. Verse 12 says, "**12** I perceived that there is nothing better for them than **to be joyful and to do good as long as they live**; ". "**to be joyful and to do good as long as they live**" **means** the most blessed life. What does this delight point to us? It does not mean the delight in the common grace that is united with the spiritual delight. We know that only the spiritual delight means the sufficient state of the soul.

Continuously the preacher in verse 13 says , "also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is **God's gift to man**. ". The

delight in toil in daily life should be enjoyed through the life of eating, drinking and taking pleasure. The Scripture does not despise common grace but respect it for special grace. Tertullian understood that the common grace is the background, and the field that special grace, salvation can activate." Really Jesus admits the grace in the life of God's kingdom. " Mt. 4:4 says, "But he answered, "It is written, "'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

", And also Paul exhorted Timothy, who got the chronic stomach diseases to use some wine. "(No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.) ". ( I Tim 5:23) What does it mean? It points the soul relationship between the common grace and the special grace. Roman Catholic stressed that special grace should be ruled over common grace. So the church should control the state. In the medieval day of church for 1000 years church controls every area of common grace those are, science, literature and philosophy and the arts. Really does the Scripture teach it? We do not think so. The Scripture stresses that church should lead the state in spiritually, but the state should protect the church. It means that common grace can not be stood up over special grace and also special grace can not stand over common grace. We admit that in the one aspects common grace should be obeyed to special grace and at the other aspects we admit that the special grace should control common grace. So we understand the interdependence and interrelationship in two things.

= Our life should enjoy the common grace in Christ, and we should experience that the excellency of special grace. The preacher reveals that the delight in daily life should be revealed in the fear of the Lord. this is Christian hedonism.

So it is just like the spiritual delight that Paul points, "rejoice always." ( I Thesalonian 5:16) What do you think of it? It means that we should enjoy all situation, good thing, bad

thing, those are, 14 times contrasted states, ( 3:1-8 ) should be the field that we can enjoy wonderful delight and peace. It points that Paul stressed " I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content." (Philipian 4:11) Here to be content means the pleasure in the special grace that was stood firm on the common grace. Verses 12-13 prove that point.

Then how does this delight come to us? This is the delight through the fellowship with God. As we know God, we learn the fear of God before God (14). "I perceived that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it. God has done it, **so that people fear before him.** " The man like the beasts can get great rejoice out of the above through living fellowship. This fellowship with God shall bring the rejoice that comes through the answer of prayer. (Jn 16:24) "Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. " And Acts 2:46 says, "And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, " And also this joy comes out of the fullness of Holy Spirit. We should take desire to enjoy the delight that the Lord provides. We should love the joy in our soul more than the joy that comes out of abundant food and wine. = We should devote ourselves to listening to the Word of God.

## **Second, the life that does goodness is blessing.**

Verse 12 says, "I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and **to do good** as long as they live; ". The preacher points that the blessed life means the good work. "

The world that the evil is filled with needs to aspire the good work. So the preacher



who saw the unrighteous descion in the court larmented. (16) " Moreover, I saw under the sun that **in the place of justice**, even there was wickedness, and in the place of righteousness, even there was wickedness. Here this good work is different to the goodness of world.

Here, this good deed means the goodness before God., the spiritual goodness.

It is more precious in the wicked world. The presacher who saw the wicked thing that is excecuted on the court larmented. (16) And here the good work is not secular one but spiritual one, which God admits, that is the will of God. Verses 14 points that only the will of God is good deed, beauty. Only God's will and the fulfillment of his will is goodness. So After God created all creatures soon he confessed "it is good."( And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. Gen 1:31 ) And after he die on the cross he soon declared " It is finished"( Jh19:30 When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.) And also as He judged all things on the throne, "Hallelruah" which means goodness was spread to all things (Revelation 19:1) After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,"

In contemporary day, many people do not know true good work. So they feel the sufficiency temporarily, but do not know true cnotents. We should live as the man who was cured, established and repaired and makes them been peaceful one another in the settled will of God. This is our mission in Christ.

**Third, The life that takes the contents in his own life is blessing.**

Delight and good work belong to innate blessing, but sufficiency of our sacrifice belongs to external blessing. If we want to live happily, we need sufficiency in my actual life. Verse 13 says, "also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is **God's gift to man.**" The sacrifice (toil, devotion) of spiritual work is blessing. We should have sufficiency to my spiritual gifts. We should be contents in our church life, because of enjoying church serving, obedience and prayer.

Do you take contents in your actual life? Do you enjoy your real situation, poor state, about states and good health and bad health ?

According to my understanding I can say that our present situation shall be to be content just like Paul did.

Conclusion

My beloved saints,

Today we listen to the method to live the best one in our lives. What are they? We should stand firm on the foundation special grace, our redemption and we should not leave the situation of common grace. Embrace our actual states in our heart to transform into the best one. Although we taste the emptiness in our heart, we should enjoy sufficiency in Christ. May the grace of God be with you all.

#### 4. The lamentation of a wise man (Ecc 4:1-6)

Again I saw **all the oppressions** that are done under the sun. And behold, **the tears of the oppressed**, and they had no one to comfort them! On the side of their oppressors there was power, and there was no one to comfort them. **2**And I thought **the dead** who are already dead more fortunate than the living who are still alive.**3**But better than both is he who has not yet

been and has not seen the evil deeds that are done under the sun.<sup>4</sup> Then I saw that **all toil and all skill in work come from a man's envy of his neighbor**. This also is vanity<sup>a</sup> and a striving after wind.<sup>5</sup> The fool folds his hands and eats his own flesh.

### Introduction:

1. Good morning, How are you? In this morning at prayer and chapel time, may the grace of God be with you all through meditating this text.

I think that always the Christians should start by thinking the love of God in our heart for the satisfaction of his heart.

2. As we meditate the ecclesiastes, we learn that when we lament evil doing in our lives like the preacher, we know that wonderful blessing be with us. Why? Because the success without lamentation should be destroyed easily, the failure with lamentation shall be the short way to attain the successfulness.

3. The text reveals lamenting of the preacher about oppression ( 1 "Again I saw all the oppressions that are done under the sun. And behold, **the tears of the oppressed**, and they had no one to comfort them! On the side of their oppressors there was power, and there was no one to comfort them." ) and the toil of envy (4) Verse 4 says, "Then I saw that all toil and all skill in work come from **a man's envy of** his neighbor. This also is vanity<sup>a</sup> and a striving after wind"

### **First, he lamented in looking without comfort to the oppressed**

In verses 1-3 he saw some oppression in the society. Here " behold, the tears of the

oppressed, points the expression of his lamentation.

=Ex: Whoever hates any oppression by the other or, the authority. As we know that when the old generation of Rehoboam requested to stop the oppression in the future, he refused it rather, he responded that he shall oppress more severely than before, according to the advice of young generation. Then Israel was divided into two parts, northern Israel and the southern Judah. Why? Because the people did not like to be oppressed by God. Now our actual life follows because the man wants to have freedom.

Today we see many oppression in our lives, in family, in society and in business. But under the sun any oppression is meaningless. Historically although many dictators oppressed the people, if God did not permit the event, he could not oppress them. Finally they were destroyed.

Additionally the preacher lamented more because he could not see the comforter to the oppressed. He was sorrowful because the society had no justice and righteousness. So he says, "And behold, **the tears of the oppressed**, and they had no one to comfort them! On the side of their oppressors there was power, and there was no one to comfort them. **2**And I thought **the dead** who are already dead more fortunate than the living who are still alive. "

James chapter 2 mentioned that James lamented a discrimination was happened in the church. "My brothers,<sup>a</sup> show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. **2**For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, **3**and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor

man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet," <sup>4</sup>have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?" ( James 2:1-4)

In Christian life we should keep justice and righteousness in Christ by overcoming partiality. Moreover we should learn mercy to our neighbor, weak brothers and weak sisters in the name of Jesus. This is true love. Jesus promised " the blessed is the one who has mercy to the other. He shall receive mercy from God.

In our day as we see the oppression we should take merciful heart before God.

**Second, he lamented that the people spent time by envy.**

Verse 4 says, "Then I saw that **all toil and all skill in work come from a man's envy of his neighbor**. This also is vanity<sup>a</sup> and a striving after wind. He lamented to see envy in the world. In other words, the people sacrifice to be envy . It is so foolish because it is sin. He can not get them. When we serve God's calling we should have passion for Christ. Then we should be careful in our lives about envy to our neighbor.

Proverb 4:30 says "A tranquil<sup>f</sup> heart gives life to the flesh, but envy<sup>g</sup> makes the bones rot. What does I mean? It perishes our lives and our ministry. Although we need good contest to attain to our target , we should be careful before God.

Ex: Why were Ananias and Sapphira died at one day? Because they could not overcome this envy-temptation. Envy makes covet and covet makes to break the authority of God.

Where the envy come out of? It comes out of idleness. Verse 5 says, "The fool folds his hands and eats his own flesh.

" Proverb 6:10-11 says, A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, **11**and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.

In Christian life we should fight to idleness. Do not postpone our actual work. Then we can get abundant grace from God. The power can overcome envy, jealousy. After that we can live spiritual freedom in Christ.

### **Conclusion:**

My beloved saints.

We see the larmetation for oppression ad envy in the life. Especially we have to be careful to two things in actual life. How can overcome this one? We should stay in the word of God. Ex" Corintian church could not overcome the sins in ther heart because they left the written word of God because of these heart.

When we study today, we should meditate the word of God faithfully. Then we can overcome this danger. May the grace of God be with you.

### **The power of Harmony in Christ (Ecc 4:7-12)**

Again, I saw vanity under the sun: **8**one person who has no other, either son or brother, yet there is no end to all his toil, and his eyes are never satisfied with riches, so that he never asks, "**For whom am I toiling and depriving myself of pleasure?**" This also is vanity and an unhappy business.

**9Two are better than one**, because they have **a good reward** for their toil. **10**For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has **not another to lift him up!** **11**Again, if two lie together, **they keep warm**, but how can one keep warm alone? **12**And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a **threefold cord is not quickly broken**.

### Introduction:

The text reveals that loneliness is so emptiness through several figures to us.

Verse 8 mentions that isolated life is so vanity. Again, I saw vanity under the sun: **8**one person who has no other, either son or brother, yet there is no end to all his toil, and his eyes are never satisfied with riches, so that he never asks, **"For whom am I toiling and depriving myself of pleasure?"** This also is vanity and an unhappy business.

= much sacrifice without concern about harmony in his whole life is so vanity. So the preacher teaches that we should pursue peace centered life. harmony centered life. Ex: in our study time we have to harmony in the passionate studying time. So the people can not live alone without any help. God created the man helpful persons. " ".

The church that the Lord build herself is the assembly of harmony (reconciliation) Because the Lord called for them to the unity in Spirit. John 17: 11 says, "And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. " Why is reconciliation so important?

### **First, he can get better reward.**

Verse 9 says, "**Two are better than one**, because they have **a good reward** for their toil. "

We need harmony to get better rewards. Why should the parents serve the Lord because they should share the eternal inheritance, (1 Peter 5:7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.) And bishop's wife reach to the same level of their husband. (1 Tim 3:11 Their wives likewise<sup>d</sup> must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things.) Especially if two or three persons pray together God shall answer best one. We know that Daniel and his three friends prayed together to God. Then God worked more wonderful thing for his glory. So we should learn from God and also we should learn our God. How do we harmonize in Christ? First we have to know gospel second, we have to be born again. And we should try to accomplish oneness in Christ. It means that we understand the Word of God.

**Second, they establish themselves each other.** Verse 10-11 reveals that the importance of unity explained two examples, 1) as we slipped down the other makes him established. Why did Jesus send his evangelists two by two to the village? It points the importance of harmony. 2) two persons are lied down together they feel warmer. Also it is the harmony. Ex: fire wood should be gathered together to frame more.  
= The church has to focus on establishing the nature.

**Third, they can overcome the attack of violent evil.** The harmonized persons can overcome any problems in Christ. Verse 12 says, And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a **threefold cord is not quickly broken**.



8 blessings of Jesus' teaching on the mount can be consisted of two Parts, the one is 1-4 , the poor in Spirit, larmment, the meek and thirsty to righteousness among them the poor heart is foundation between God and man and remaining blessing 4, peacemaker, mercy, pure heart and the persecuted. Among them peacemaker blessing is foundation between the man and the man.

Today our Lord through the preacher says, " become peace maker in your life.

For this gospel we should offer our heart . So we should enjoy the authority of God's children. Evangelism is the most direct method.

### **Let's pray**

My beloved saints

We have to pursue to become peacemaker not trouble maker.

Let's keep the oneness in Holy Spirit for reveal his image, righteousness, mercy and faithfulness.

## 10. The Condition of Spiritual Leader (Ecc 4:13-16)

Better was a poor and wise youth than an old and foolish king who no longer knew how to take advice. **14**For he went from prison to the throne, though in his own kingdom he had been born poor. **15**I saw all the living who move about under the sun, along with that<sup>b</sup> youth who was to stand in the king's<sup>c</sup> place. **16**There was no end of all the people, all of whom he led. Yet those who come later will not rejoice in him. Surely this also is vanity and a striving after wind.

### Introduction

Today's text reveals the importance of true leadership by showing that a young king ruling is vanity. Verses 13-14 say, "Better was **a poor and wise youth** than **an old and foolish king** who no longer knew how to take advice. For he went from prison to the throne, though in his own kingdom he had been born poor... Surely this also is vanity and a striving after wind."

What elements does true leadership need? What should the spiritual leadership have?

### First, he should have the spiritual wisdom.

The ruling power is the unique mission God gave to them. Genesis 1: 28 says, "And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." . As the sin came into the world, the leadership was destroyed because of losing his power. Sin makes the foundation broken completely. So the man rules over all creature by his covetous purpose and secular cunning method. So they were fallen

down into the corrupted society like Nimrod did. They lost true spiritual leadership. So they live as the slave of Satan. Finally true leader, Jesus Christ came into the world, he redeemed his own people and renewed their all functions wonderfully. Especially Christ redeemed the corrupted leadership into heavenly leadership. So all creature is waiting for their leadership at the day of second coming Jesus. Therefore we rule over all the world in Christ. We are kings in Christ. All things in the world are controlled by us. So our life is so important. Our thought, our attitude and our activities are so important in Christ. Verse 13 says, "Better was a poor and wise youth than an old and foolish king who no longer knew how to take advice." The preacher compared the young wise king and old and foolish king, he stressed that wisdom is so precious. In other words, the preacher says that he has a solid heart without having wisdom makes our good position been weak. So we should take wise heart in our lives. As a spiritual leader. Ex: Paul exhorted Timothy, "1Tim 1:14 says "Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity."

David confessed that "I understand more than the aged, for I keep your precepts. (Ps119:100)" And Daniel could overcome all suffering with the spiritual wisdom.

= in our studying time we should return to the Scriptures (1Tim3:16-17 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>that the man of God<sup>b</sup> may be complete, equipped for every good work.) and enter into the prayer room. (Mt 6:6) But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

**Second, the leader needs the train through suffering.**

We should not forget that the way to get spiritual wisdom is through and prayer and also the suffering of wilderness. "For he went from prison to the throne, though in his own kingdom he had been born poor. (14)" Here the wisdom of the man came out of suffering. Here who is the king? The Jews thought Joseph or, David. Joseph became a primary minister out of prison of suffering. As we know, How did Joseph take beautiful personality to his enemies? Because he was trained in the suffering time. Then he saw that God changed their evil into goodness. The trial, like the gold refined in fire made him as spiritual leader for kingdom of God.

= How about David? He also learnt the meaning of suffering in the life of Bethlehem. So he can forgive his enemies for God's glory. And also our Lord learnt obedience through suffering. Spiritual leadership comes out of our present suffering.

### **Third, the leader should follow God's will.**

Verses 16 says, "16 There was no end of all the people, all of whom he led. Yet those who come later will not rejoice in him. Surely this also is vanity and a striving after wind. ". The people are so changeable. Then how can we control them? We have to learn that God's will should be applied to our present situation. The preacher confessed it is vanity under the sun.

In our lives we have to claim the will of God. Although we have good plan, without God's permission nothing remains. So James 3:14-15 points, "yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. 15 Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that."

Spiritual leaders should learn the important principle, Mt 6:33. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Actually we have to seek the will of God.

**Conclusion:**

My beloved saints, you are spiritual leaders in Christ.

You need the spiritual wisdom by obeying the word of God and you have to seek the will of God. "not my will but your will" is our motto in today's life.

May the grace of God be with you all.

**Let's pray, Lord,**

We confess that we are sinners before you. You redeemed our spiritual leadership out of corrupted states.

Makw us become faithful leaders for your glory.

## 11. The Word that Comes Out Of the Fear of the Lord (Ecc 5:1-7)

Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. To draw near to listen is better than to offer the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they are doing evil. <sup>2b</sup> Be not rash with your mouth, nor let your heart be hasty to utter a word before God, for God is in heaven and you are on earth. Therefore let your words be few. <sup>3</sup> For a dream comes with much business, and a fool's voice with many words. <sup>4</sup> When you vow a vow to God, do not delay paying it, for he has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you vow. <sup>5</sup> It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay. <sup>6</sup> Let not your mouth lead you <sup>c</sup> into sin, and do not say before the messenger <sup>d</sup> that it was a mistake. Why should God be angry at your voice and destroy the work of your hands? <sup>7</sup> For when dreams increase and words grow many, there is vanity; <sup>e</sup> but <sup>f</sup> God is the one you must fear.

Introduction:

Today the text reveals the importance of word before God and man. In other words, it reveals how we can say the complete word. So the lots of the Ecclesiastes words and teaching is related to saying. The proposition, "Everyth ing under the sun is vanity." came out of much experimental events. James who was a evangelist of New Testament says, " " (James 3:2). The complete saying comes out of complete godliness. Actually, the word, the prayer, confession and praising is the expression of living water that Holy Spirit gave.

### **First, The importance of word in the spiritual life.**

Saying in the life of Christian is the center in his activities. This saying is himself and his

life. the world was created by the word, and the redemption was accomplished by the word, and also finally as 24 elders in the book of revelation by verbalizing word they praised to the Lord.

Especially it is so wonderful to inform the revelation by the word. Although it is same words, the confession of Peter and the confession of Judah was settled on the heaven and hell. So the preacher reveals the importance to us.

**1) First it emphasise that to listen to the word of God is primary thing.** Verse 1 says, " ". Without understanding the word, to offer the offering to God it is life to offer the evil to god. Nadam and abihuh followed this way and Annania and Shabirah did it. So God command that we should first the word and next shouldoffer it to God. the offering of faith always point to follow the word of God. Both Cain and Abel were failed about this standard. " ". ( I Sam 16:22-23).

**2) Second, he should ask the true word faithfully to God.**

Verse 2 says, " ". It is easy to say something in hot temper and to say something without caution in our lives. This is not living offering but the dead offering. 3) He should take vow. Verses 4-7 say that God commanded to keep your vow to God. Vow is great word that should take the responsibility. Like the vow of Hannah the vow of obedience belongs to us. What is our vow in our lives? The priority that the preacher taught us should be accpeted by us.

**Second, The method to make the saying been complete.**

Next, how can we say right word in our lives? It shuld comes out of the fear heart to the Lord. Verse 2 says, " ". It is important to know our present position. As we know the different point between God and our position, we can learn the fear to the Lord. So

closet room, isolation, suffering, failure are the proper time that can learn the fear of the Lord. When the man who stresses to the Lordship has this godly fear he can possess the work of life.

If he has no this one, it is likt to lose the life. So verse 7 says, " " then how can we get this godliness in our lives? "

**1) We should learn that God exists in heaven.** We should admit that God in heaven can not be approach by any one. Our all wings shou;d cover out all parts to stand up before Him.

The joy of the baptist John comes out of this place. He rejoiced because of the fact that Christ belongs to heaven but he himself to the earth. " the man is nothing. If he is attached to God no body can be useful. To Cabernaum the curse of the Lord means towards the people.

**2) Therefore we should believe in Him faithfully.** As we depend on himself, we can be admitted. What God accepts our word and our meditation shall be become only by believing the blood of Christ. As Jesus emphasizes that whoever has thirsty should come to me, then he shall experience the living stream in his heart, we have to thirsty ( repentance) and drinking ( detailed faith). As we know the Samaritan woman experienced the repentance and faith. This is the restoration of godliness. Here, praising is the offering God accepts. Then the spirit of presence present on them.



## 12. The Christian View of Material (Ecc 5:8-20)

If you see in a province the oppression of the poor and the violation of justice and righteousness, do not be amazed at the matter, for the high official is watched by a higher, and there are yet higher ones over them.

**9**But this is gain for a land in every way: a king committed to cultivated fields.<sup>9</sup>

**10**He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity. **11**When goods increase, they increase who eat them, and what advantage has their owner but to see them with his eyes? **12**Sweet is the sleep of a laborer, whether he eats little or much, but the full stomach of the rich will not let him sleep.

**13**There is a grievous evil that I have seen under the sun: riches were kept by their owner to his hurt, **14**and those riches were lost in a bad venture. And he is father of a son, but he has nothing in his hand. **15**As he came from his mother's womb he shall go again, naked as he came, and shall take nothing for his toil that he may carry away in his hand. **16**This also is a grievous evil: just as he came, so shall he go, and what gain is there to him who toils for the wind? **17**Moreover, all his days he eats in darkness in much vexation and sickness and anger.

**18**Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting is to eat and drink and find enjoyment<sup>h</sup> in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of his life that God has given him, for this is his lot. **19**Everyone also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and rejoice in his toil—this is the gift of

**God. 20**For he will not much remember the days of his life because God keeps him occupied with joy in his heart.

Introduction:

In the contemporary day, one of the worst enemy of the Christian may be to ignore the right view of material. In other words, many Christian loves money more than loving Christ. I observe an urgent time that the covet makes them been miserable state actually. As the Lord pointed the obvious choice to material or, God, we should make sure to follow the Lord in our lives. Which one do you choose in your life?

In actual Cambodia situation, we see that many Christians want to follow this way, loving money. Actually somebody does not believe in Christ's teaching about the money like a rich person in Lk12:13-21. The rich person thought that the money can solve all things; personal food, even the future of soul. "And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 19And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'" Then the Lord called that tonight I will deprive your life, what shall you do? But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be? The Scripture declared that he is a foolish person. So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.'" Really he did not enjoy his wealth in his life. The money picked out his life continuously.

In this year, I saw that my staffs in our church loves money very much in their heart although they want to become a pastor or a bible teacher. Finally they chose this way

like the wife of Lot did temporarily.

So we should listen to Christ's asking and response obviously " You cannot serve two Lords, money and God at the same time. (Mt 6:24) "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money"<sup>s</sup> This teaching again reveals in the text by the preacher obviously to us. Here the preacher warns the wrong view about the one who does not use the materials well. So he emphasizes that we should live with the right view of money in our lives.

What attitude should we have about money?

### **First, We should admit that our materials comes out of God. (19)**

Maxims that assures that the material is God is located in the modern thought. As I ask some question to Cambodia persons about some vision in his future. they always answer to get the money much in his life. Why? Because they live in poverty in their situation. I agree with them. In my case, I want to have some amount monthly. Then I will concentrate on my mission ministry. But actually I got trouble in present situation. So this year I changed my two flats of my church into 1 flat. And also I cannot pay fully to our staffs fully. Now 5 staffs gave up to study and to take church ministry because of their personal financial issue. In this case what do you handle it? Then we learn that the materials come out of living God for our lives. This basic assurance should be located in our thought. Then we can be free. Verse 19 says, "**19Everyone also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and rejoice in his toil—this is the gift of God.** ".

Ex: Really , Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were the rich persons but they enjoyed the spiritual freedom in their vies because they assured that this material came out of God. Their contents were not put on the material but the God himself. So verse 10 says, "**10He**

**who loves money** will not be satisfied with money, nor **he who loves wealth** with his income; this also is vanity. ”.

In history, the person who loves the materials was perished but the person who loves God he could enjoy the wealth in his life in God's grace.

Paul says, "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. ". ( 1tim 6:10)

We should throw away the philosophy that only money can do all things. But we hold the word that we can do all things ( rich or poverty) in Christ. Philippians 4: 12-13) I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. [13](#) I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

We should have the assurance of Job who confessed "Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. [21](#) And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." (1:20-21) Can you confess this one in your heart? As we know he is rich person suddenly he became a complete beggar in his life with chronicle disease in his physical body. Then he could complain to God. Why me? Why did you give this suffering to me? Then he praised to the Lord because he believed that everything comes out of God, the creator, the provider and redeemer and judger.

May the grace of God to you to confess such thing in your life.

## **II. We should learn how to use the material rightly.**

In Calvinism we do not despise the common grace in our life. Money is one of common grace. Without money we cannot study, we cannot keep good health. And we cannot keep safe life. So we have to make the money in our lives. Here, we should learn how to use the money from the preacher.

How did he teach to us?

**First, he prohibited to keep the materials harmfully.** Verse 13 says, "[13](#) There is a grievous evil that I have seen under the sun: riches were kept by their owner to his hurt, ". Proverb 23:5 says "When your eyes light on it, it is gone, for suddenly it sprouts wings, flying like an eagle toward heaven. ". Although we save extremely in our lives, some person become poor, But even though somebody give to many people extremely he can get much money by God's blessing. So we accept the command of Proverb 11:24, "One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. ". Why? because God provided all materials to us personally and indirectly in our lives. Ex: Zacchaeus says, "And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.(Lk19:8) "./ although he was so rich he lost best blessing then as he believes in Jesus as his Lord he confessed his wealth to his neighbors. Then he could enjoy the grace really. If we receive grace from God we should claim that my all things come out of God. So we should praise the Lord and we should glorify God because of this one.

**Second, we should not trust on the shakable wealth.** Preacher pointed that the material cannot fill sufficiency to the desire of a boy." ". The Scripture stresses that money has wings, Although the money came to us if God command it the money can fly to the other. Then the person shall be frustrated in his heart. So we have to learn

Agar's philosophy , "7Two things I ask of you; deny them not to me before I die:8Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, (Proverb 30:7-8)". He is not negative person, he is not frustrated small person. Rather he is the positive person and to enjoy more wonderful wealth spiritual wealth that is, God's fullness in his life.

Ex: Why did God provide the manna to Israel on the wilderness? Did God want to claim the miraculous life on the world? No, the Scripture says, "5Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the Lord your God disciplines you. 6So you shall keep the commandments of the Lord your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him "(Due 8:5-6) In other words through that event , God wants to teach that you should live by not the miracle, but God and the Word of God. (Mt4:4) He should focus on the obey the word of God. We should hold this truth,.

Really if a Cambodian Christian obey the word of God, can he enjoy the wonderful life? Yes, God shall keep his promise. In the pussart province, if a Christian called for God and requested his title to God really can god listen to the small voice ? Yes. As we approach to God by faith God shall answer wonderful thing to you. We believe in it.

I want to say that Cambodia church and Christian walks into the way of death about materialism and secular hedonism now. How about our students their thought. Can you queenly that our students and our professors has no materialism? Many missionaries many helpers need this assurance before God.

Third, we should help materials to our poor persons. (8) God concentrate on helping the poor person. It is to put his treasure into the heaven.

Conclusion:

Frankly I am a weak person about the biblical materialism. But I appreciate that our professors has sound material philosophy. Especially we live in training of biblical view of material.

Now the Preacher proclaim , money comes out of God and Do not trust in the money but God.

May the grace be with you, you become the one that occupy the material by using the spiritual blessing, the word of God.

### 13. The Knowledge of God and The Knowledge of Man (Ecc 6:1-12)

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;<sup>a</sup> 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<sup>b</sup> 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.<sup>c</sup> **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<sup>d</sup> life, which he passes like a shadow? For who can tell man what will be after him under the sun?

### **Introduction:**

The preacher teaches the truth that the man who has true knowledge of God enjoys the true happiness in the world. Verse 6 says, "Even though he should live a thousand years twice over, yet enjoy<sup>b</sup> no good—**do not all go to the one place?**" It means that to live by the heaven- centric life is the most blessing life. (12) "**12**For who knows what is good for man while he lives the few days of his vain<sup>d</sup> life, which he passes like a shadow? For who can tell man what will be after him under the sun?" Enjoying the heavenly joy in daily life is the best way in the world. Do you have this delight now?

### **First, how precious is the delight of heart ?**

Here, the preacher emphasizes that the delight of heart is more precious than honor and wealth. According to verses 1-2 he saw a bad evil under the sun , a certain man does not enjoy the common grace of wealth, possessions and honor that God provides. "There is an evil that I have seen under the sun, and it lies heavy on mankind: 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. ". As we



know the same references before. Ecc 5:13 -16 says, "There is a grievous evil that I have seen under the sun: riches were kept by their owner to his hurt, ... This also is a grievous evil: just as he came, so shall he go, and what gain is there to him who toils for the wind? "

The one case points the state to commit sin because he inclined to abound and poverty, but the other though he got wealth, richness and honor, because his heart is dark, he can not enjoy them in his life.

These case comes at the other verses. Ps 73:7 says, "Their eyes swell out through fatness; **their hearts overflow with follies.**" Job 21:7-13 says, "

At the other case, we find that many people enjoy wealth, honor and worldly abundance in their lives. In John chapter 10, the metaphor of shepherd, we see that abundance of the shepherd that the sheep can enjoy. What did they enjoy? The sheep enjoys salvation (9I am the door. If anyone enters by me, **he will be saved** and will go in and out and find pasture.), the abundant life (10<sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. **I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.**) and the absolute protection (38-39but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father." <sup>39</sup>**Again they sought to arrest him, but he escaped from their hands.**)

How much do you enjoy the abundant present in your life? We should be careful of dropping down into the miserable state that killed the prophets and deprived of good things out of the neighbors like Isebel did.

## **Second, the delight of heart is better than the long life.**

According to verses 3-6, the preacher said that the delight of heart is better than the long life. Verse 3 says, "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,"

Verse 6 says, "that although we live 2000 years if we do not enjoy the happiness of heart, we have no meaning."

We should seek the long life to enjoy the peace. The peace is the peace of heart and the the peace of the kingdom of God. It means peace, righteousness and delight in the Spirit.

Ex: So Enoch walks with God in bearing children for 300 years because he enjoyed this peace. Gen 5:22-24 says, "Enoch walked with God<sup>b</sup> after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters. [23](#) Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years. [24](#) Enoch walked with God, and he was not,<sup>c</sup> for God took him"

We should seek this peace. In our ministry we should be filled with this heavenly peace. This is the original revival, real blessing in our lives.

= In our life do we enjoy the heavenly peace? In Cambodian situation can we enjoy the peace? I think that though Cambodia Christian tries to enjoy the peace, they can not experience the peace in their personal life because they break out the vessel of peace, the responsibility. Responsibility is

faithfulness. I found many cases they broke out their vessel of peace and grace actually. They were fallen down into the worldly safety. So they want to escape out of the trouble events in their lives. They tend to give up their duties. Is it right in his life? The Scripture points a sin. True repentance is responsibility, true faith starts from responsibility. If you believe in the gospel you should take

### **Third, how can we enjoy the delight in our soul?**

The peace in heart that is better than wealth and long life began with knowing God. As we read the Ecclesiastes, we feel to read the writing of existentialist. (7-9) "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."

Here, "Better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of the appetite" It means when we live the devotional life for God's glory, we can get the meaningful life momentarily.

However the preacher is not the existentialist but the theocentricism. (God-centered thinker)

Verses 10-12 says, "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<sup>d</sup> life, which he passes like a shadow? For who can tell man what will be after him under the sun? ”.

As we know the Almighty God, we can enjoy the eternal delight in the heart. This is the delight tha man should enjoy in his life.

At the John 11: we find that the work of Lord is so immeasable event in the human imagination because the dead man was resurrected by his word. So in our lives, it is primary to know the Lord. The one who the Lord loves can experience the suffering in his life. The Lord wanted to be glorified by them in the suffering time. So we believe that our failure and our frustration is to leave the seat to know the Lord . Therefore we should learn that the spiritual fellowship is our true delight in the world.

### **Conclusion:**

The Christian lives in the special grace that comes out of knowing self and God. We should assure that as we gathered, we should be filled with grace and should enjoy the delight of heart.

Ex: As we meditate the words of the preacher, we should assure the truth that our only comfort is Trinity God, Father God , Son-God and Holy Spirit-God as Heiderberg Catechism question 1,

### **Q. What is your only comfort in life and death?**

That I am not my own, <sup>1</sup>

A. but belong with body and soul,  
both in life and in death, <sup>2</sup>  
to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ. <sup>3</sup>

He has fully paid for all my sins  
with his precious blood, [4](#)  
and has set me free  
from all the power of the devil. [5](#)  
He also preserves me in such a way [6](#)  
that without the will of my heavenly Father  
not a hair can fall from my head; [7](#)  
indeed, all things must work together  
for my salvation. [8](#)  
Therefore, by his Holy Spirit  
he also assures me  
of eternal life [9](#)  
and makes me heartily willing and ready  
from now on to live for him. [10](#)

#### 14. Thinking at Trouble Time (Ecc 7:1-14)

**1**A good name is better than precious ointment,  
and the day of death than the day of birth.

**2**It is better to go to the house of mourning  
than to go to the house of feasting,  
for this is the end of all mankind,  
and the living will lay it to heart.

**3**Sorrow is better than laughter,  
for by sadness of face the heart is made glad.

**4**The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning,  
but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.

**5**It is better for a man to hear the rebuke of the wise  
than to hear the song of fools.

**6**For as the crackling of thorns under a pot,  
so is the laughter of the fools;  
this also is vanity.<sup>a</sup>

**7**Surely oppression drives the wise into madness,  
and a bribe corrupts the heart.

**8**Better is the end of a thing than its beginning,  
and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.

**9**Be not quick in your spirit to become angry,  
for anger lodges in the heart<sup>b</sup> of fools.

**10**Say not, "Why were the former days better than these?"  
For it is not from wisdom that you ask this.

**11**Wisdom is good with an inheritance,  
an advantage to those who see the sun.

**12**For the protection of wisdom is like the protection of money, and the advantage of knowledge is that wisdom preserves the life of him who has it.

**13**Consider the work of God:  
who can make straight what he has made crooked?

**14**In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider: God has made the one as well as the other, so that man may not find out anything that will be after him.

### **Introduction:**

The contemporary day runs away to the philosophy of prosperity and success in making the gospel been obscure. We should make sure the teaching of our Lord and the Apostles. In contrast of loving the saying, " to become rich person is the will of God", our Lord loves that although the fox has his den and the birds in the air also has nest, the son of man has no the place that he can put his head. And also we feel that many people follow the opposite way that Paul says, " to love the money is the root of every evil."

And also preacher evaluates that trouble is better than prosperity. So he exhorts that we should not the suffering but respect them and find the hidden blessing. Honor is better than oil (1), funeral house is better than the wedding house. (2, 4) and grief is better than laugh (3) And also the end is more important than beginning. (8) And today is better than past time, and wisdom is better than money. (11-12) So he stresses that we should consider at the suffering time. Why? Because at that time we can learn wisdom, truth and have the fear of the Lord.. So God wants that God permits two ways, suffering time and prosperous time at the same time on our way to teach the impossibility of self and

the proper life to the time.

The suffering time and the trouble time shall make us known the true precious way. Why is the trouble time so valuable?

Why does the trouble time take value in our lives?

### **First, because he can think of God in the tribulation time**

The corrupted man cannot believe in God essentially. Then to the people who live in thinking of no God, a suffering time gives him an important chance that reminds God. In verse 12, what is the refuge of wisdom and knowledge? Just it is the fear of the Lord. This fear can be gotten at the suffering time. It is the wonderful blessing. Really as the man thinks of God new hope shall be started.

Therefore God came nearby closely to us by revealing himself to us. This suffering is precious because it is to make him, who loves adultery known God and the way to knowing God. So we should meditate God in the suffering time to fill our heart with him. Only the new work begins with knowing God.

### **Second, because we can know ourselves in the tribulation day.**

And also when we have trouble time we understand our miserable state. This is right way. So as the trained teacher the preacher claims the value by comparing with several things as followings, 1) honor is better than oil. Ex: Esau was a foolish person who was failed about this issue. The Christian should keep his dignity and his honor by throwing away the worldly things. 2) The funeral house is better than the wedding house. As the Christian put his heart on the low place there we can get the wisdom.

The funeral house of Nazarus is accomplished more than the wedding house of Cana.



Then the Lord through the suffering time the faith of Martha and Maria were grown by trading time and Christ reveals that only Christ is the life, the resurrection in the world. Symbolism was changed the reality. The truth that Christ himself is the life to resurrect the dead person was happened at the funeral house. 3) we can learn better that the old time is better than the present in the offering time. Today the man loves the pleasure very much. They run away toward the opposite direction of the Scripture.

### **Third, because we can pray in the tribulation day.**

The one who know God and self learns prayer in the suffering time. Like that the person who was drowned in the water tries to hold the weak straw, the man learn true prayer. In such meaning the suffering is so helpful. So we should enter into the closet room of prayer in the tribulation time. The cerebation of David's dancing is important but to know the Lord and to worship Him is more important. Although the ministry of culture belongs to the Christian, the person who learns the wisdom can compromise with them and can bring the strange stream into the church and can make mixed with the secular culture by compromising with the pure gospel. So we should see the reality of ourselves in the light of Christ at the trouble day.

So Calvin says that this suffering awake us and settle our changeable desire. At the psalms of David we can see this reality very much. In Psalms 69, David was revealed as a man of great suffering. He was submerged into the trouble and lamentation. Then what did he do? Then he learn the prayer by crying out and true faith from God. Finally he received great grace out of God by praising to the Lord. Really the day of suffering is not curse but blessing. It is the great chance to find the great well of blessing at that time.

## Conclusion:

Let's listen to the word of the Lord through the preacher. We should pray positively by considering the Lord, not seeing our miserable state. This is the right way of prosperity and the right thought of trouble time.

## 15. The Life of Balance (Ecc 7:15-24)

In my vain<sup>c</sup> life I have seen everything. There is a righteous man who perishes in his righteousness, and there is a wicked man who prolongs his life in his evildoing. **16**Be not overly righteous, and do not make yourself too wise. Why should you destroy yourself? **17**Be not overly wicked, neither be a fool. Why should you die before your time? **18**It is good that you should take hold of this, and from that withhold not your hand, for the one who fears God shall come out from both of them. **19**Wisdom gives strength to the wise man more than ten rulers who are in a city. **20**Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins. **21**Do not take to heart all the things that people say, lest you hear your servant cursing you. **22**Your heart knows that many times you yourself have cursed others. **23**All this I have tested by wisdom. I said, "I will be wise," but it was far from me. **24**That which has been is far off, and deep, very deep; who can find it out?

Introduction:

In our body, to keep the balance is so precious but so hard. Moreover the balance of our all lives is more important but more difficult in our lives actually. Balancing in Christ is our normal example and our proper life. Just this one is the image of a normal Christian that we should pursue in our whole life. So actually the Holy Spirit entered into us for this work. Sometimes we express it as holy life, the imitation of God and the fullness of Holy Spirit. In other words, it is the life of spiritual balance. If we lose the balance, we become the immature persons.

However although we do not keep our spiritual balance in the life, when suddenly suffering will come to us, we shall be fallen down into the miserable state, just like an athletic who was dropped down out of the parallel bar.

As we see, the text reveals the importance of balancing life. Verses 16-17 says, "Be not overly righteous, and do not make yourself too wise. Why should you destroy yourself? **17**Be not overly wicked, neither be a fool. Why should you die before your time?" Do you understand the meaning? it means that we do not seek the life of wisdom negatively or, we should praise the foolish life. Only this passage stresses the importance of balancing life.

Verse 15 says "In my vain life I have seen everything. There is a **righteous man who perishes in his righteousness**, and there is a **wicked man who prolongs his life in his evildoing.**" How can you evaluate the fact that the evil man enjoys the evil in his long life, but the righteous lost the life for short time in the world?

And also the preacher knows that he cannot discern by the criterion of the world and now he teaches to keep the balance life in Christ.

How shall we keep the balancing life?

**First, we should learn God-centric life.**

Verse 18 says, "It is good that you should take hold of this, and from that withhold not your hand, for the one who fears God shall come out from both of them. " It points that the Fear of God makes us avoided both extreme situation. What is God centric life? The heart that fears God is God- centric life.

As Psalms 73 defined the blessing , it is the life that intimates God. ( 25) "Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you." It does not say that the man lives well, eats well, do well and live better, in better healthy and overcome the others at the contest day by prosperity and success, but it is blessing to walk with God, Immanuel. So the Psalter confessed that the one who he longs for in the heaven and in the earth is only God. He said that he want to make the Lord as my essential desire on the earth and in the heaven. Only the object of his possession and his desire is only the Lord. Just it is the normal Christian life.

However we should understand the balancing life well. It is not quantity of time and, the quantity of work. It comes out of God- centric life. What is the reason that we was failed in our lives? Because we misunderstood it. If we have no consciousness to live before God, we can lose this balance easily. Therefore we need to train that our life should put ourselves on the Lord in time, money and work etc.

**Second, we should not come up and down by means of the evaluation of the man.**

And also we should not come up and down by the evaluation of the man in order to keep the balance of the life.

Verses 21-24 say, "Do not take to heart all the things that people say, lest you hear your servant cursing you. 22Your heart knows that many times you yourself have cursed others. 23All this I have tested by wisdom. I said, "I will be wise," but it was far from me. 24That which has been is far off, and deep, very deep; who can find it out? ". Why? Because we may break out our balance by cursing of the servant and blessing of the servant. As we know Job did not listen to the negative voice of devil that blocks the way of cross. Especially the stream of humanism makes us confused our way, but finally it shall be destroyed. In the contemporary day New Age movement and unbiblical feminism was rooted in the Gnosticism, extreme humanism. They admit that the male is the symbol of evil and female is the symbol of evil and the materials is evil and spirit is goodness. So the thought attacked to the biblical view of the Scriptures. So when we review the feministic Scripture, we can find that many words are changed into the other words. For example, Jn 15:5 and Rev 3:20 in NRSV.

1) John15:5-I am the vine, you are the branches. *He* who abides in me, and I in *him*, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.(RSV)

I am the vine, you are the branches. *Those* who abide in me and I in *them* bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. (NRSV)

2) Revelation 3:20 - I will come in to *him* and eat with *him*, and *he* with me.(RSV)

I will come in to *you* and eat with *you*, and *you* with me.(NRSV)

This is not simple thing but the evidence to go to unbiblical feminism. And also the one who comes up and down by the evaluation of man can go to perfectionism because he shall be dropped down into the self-deceive. Therefore we should love the evaluation of God. Our target in the world should be not glory but cross. Jesus says, "And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. " in Lk 9:23. This is the figure of the balancing Christian in the world.

**Conclusion:**

Today, we think that the balancing life is so important. God-centric life provides wonderful blessing to us. For this work we should like the sacrifice and devotion because it can make our most blessed life. May the grace of God be with you.

## 16. Am I An Honest Man? (Ecc 7:25-29)

25I turned my heart to know and to search out and to seek wisdom and the scheme of things, and to know the wickedness of folly and the foolishness that is madness. 26And I find something more bitter than death: the woman whose heart is snares and nets, and whose hands are fetters. He who pleases God escapes her, but the sinner is taken by her. 27Behold, this is what I found, says the Preacher, while adding one thing to another to find the scheme of things— 28which my soul has sought repeatedly, but I have not found. One man among a thousand I found, but a woman among all these I have not found. 29See, this alone I found, that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes.

Introduction:

In the contemporary day we need to think of the importance of honest. Honest points upright. The honest person points the righteous man. Verse 7:20 says, "Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins. " And honest

means righteousness, faithfulness and upright (yasar – straight, pleasing) in a short word, it is simplicity. This simplicity is one of the features of Christian life, the heart like children, and the character without having deceit, faithfulness.

So the preacher says, "29See, this alone I found, that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes.". Though the man is created into the honest man he did many things with carnal craft and lost righteousness and simplicity. And he becomes the slave of death. So to return to the original state is the target of our Christian life.

How do you execute your life honestly? Always only the grace of Holy Spirit can keep changed-life in Christ.

First, essentially the man was made as an honest man.

Essentially the man was honest, faithful. Verse 29 says, "See, this alone I found, that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes. " Because God made them in his image, they resembled the honest, holiness, and righteousness of God. So Paul claims that our salvation is the restoration of God's image in Ephesian 4:22-24, he pointed three characters in God's image. "to put off your old self which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, 23and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. " Here he emphasized that the new man has three elements, righteousness, faithfulness, and holiness. These things were summarized in one word, "honest" because the honest does not exist without truth, and if we ignore holiness no honest.



Though this one is the truth the preacher understood through much experience and much studying, we know them easily, obviously through the Scripture. And also we find the common figure of honest through the men of faith in history. As we know, Daniel had it and Joseph had it. And also as the Lord remarked to Nathanael "Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!". "(Jn 1:47) It reveals the image of honest life in the Christian.

We should take such honest image in our heart in our lives for God's glory.

Second, the honest man was dropped into dishonest being.

But, the honest man was dropped down into the dishonest being because he accepted the false suggestion of Satan. It is so sorrowful. (29 See, this alone I found, that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes.) So the man cannot help escaping out of the death because he executed every thing with dishonest wisdom against God's wisdom. The preacher points the the woman is the being worse evil than death. Her heart has snare and dangerous net, his hand was bound by the prostitute who has the binding rope.

It is so tragedy that the honest being was dropped down into dishonest being because he made much schemes under the temptation of Satan. (29)

Really this is the figure of world- centric life of the person without the fear of the Lord, that is, the figure of a sinner. Such heart of the postitude reveals the corrupted mankind. Verse 28 says, "28which my soul has sought repeatedly, but I have not found. One man among a thousand I found, but a woman among all these I have

not found." This is the experimental truth that Solomon had in his life that possessed 1000 women. Still the mankind learned deceit. Jeremiah 17:10-11 says, "The heart is deceitful above all things,

and desperately sick;

who can understand it?

[10](#)"I the Lord search the heart

and test the mind,<sup>b</sup>

to give every man according to his ways,

according to the fruit of his deeds." Paul understood this one in Holy Spirit and said, "as it is written:

"None is righteous, no, not one;

[11](#)no one understands;

no one seeks for God.

[12](#)All have turned aside; together they have become worthless;

no one does good,

not even one." ( Rom 10:10-12).

What is the man? He is the corrupted being more than all creatures. When we accepted the fact then true wisdom shall begin in his life because the true wisdom comes out of true repentance.

Ex: How did the bugler on the right side cross save momentarily? Because he received the illumination of Holy spirit out of Christ, he could repent truly to God. Lk 23:41-43 point "And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." He felt strong responsibility of his bad sins in his conscience and soon he requested to Jesus, "[42](#)And he said, "Jesus,

remember me when you come into your kingdom." This is true grace, true wisdom to know God and to know himself. Then the Lord says, "[43](#)And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Now if any sinner repent his sin truly he can restore his original state, honest man who has the spirit of honest. Then he can possess true wisdom in his life.

Third, the honest shall be restored by believing the blood of Christ.

Psalms 78 treats the history of man's sin. As we review this passage, we realize that without God's mercy, no body can exist in the world. But continuously the mankind was slipped down into much snare of the environment easily. Moreover they enjoy the dangerous sins like nuclear bombs. Verses 55-59 say, "Yet they tested and rebelled against the Most High God

and did not keep his testimonies,

[57](#)but turned away and acted treacherously like their fathers;  
they twisted like a deceitful bow.

[58](#)For they provoked him to anger with their high places;  
they moved him to jealousy with their idols.

[59](#)When God heard, he was full of wrath,  
and he utterly rejected Israel. "

Proverb 6:16-19 says, "There are six things that the Lord hates,  
seven that are an abomination to him:

[17](#)haughty eyes, a lying tongue,  
and hands that shed innocent blood,

[18](#)a heart that devises wicked plans,  
feet that make haste to run to evil,

[19](#)a false witness who breathes out lies,

and one who sows discord among brothers. "

Then how could we get freedom and release out of them? Only the one who depends on the blood of Jesus Christ can do wonderful freedom. Just like David who was arrested by deceit, they were cleaned and changed into honest spirit by the blood of the Lord ( Ps 51:7 says, "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ") Today every body can be cleaned by only believing the death of Christ. This is the victorious way. Then we can experience renewal, freedom, and forgiveness in our lives through the death of Christ. If we confess our sin by believing his merit on the cross, we can get the grace immediately by God. Then we can enjoy original state, honest life, faithfulness in our lives. This is the genus of Christian happiness.

Conclusion:

The restoration of honest is the one way that Christian should go. But we are so dieceftful. Holy Spirit came into us to restore us as the man of honest and also dwells in us. We should go with depending on the blood of Christ and we should request to make renewel in our heart. This is our powerful life. Before us much Great Mountain shall be plain in Christ.

Let's pray.

## 17. The Life of the wise man (Ecc 8:1-17)

Who is like the wise?

And who knows the interpretation of a thing?

A man's wisdom makes his face shine,  
and the hardness of his face is changed.

2I say:<sup>a</sup> Keep the king's command, because of God's oath to him.<sup>b</sup> 3Be not hasty to go from his presence. Do not take your stand in an evil cause, for he does whatever he pleases. 4For the word of the king is supreme, and who may say to him, "What are you doing?" 5Whoever keeps a command will know no evil thing, and the wise heart will know the proper time and the just way.<sup>c</sup> 6For there is a time and a way for everything, although man's trouble<sup>d</sup> lies heavy on him. 7For he does not know what is to be, for who can tell him how it will be? 8No man has power to retain the spirit, or power over the day of death. There is no discharge from war, nor will wickedness deliver those who are given to it. 9All this I observed while

applying my heart to all that is done under the sun, when man had power over man to his hurt.

### Those Who Fear God Will Do Well

**10**Then I saw the wicked buried. They used to go in and out of the holy place and were praised<sup>e</sup> in the city where they had done such things. This also is vanity.<sup>f</sup> **11**Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed speedily, the heart of the children of man is fully set to do evil. **12**Though a sinner does evil a hundred times and prolongs his life, yet I know that it will be well with those who fear God, because they fear before him. **13**But it will not be well with the wicked, neither will he prolong his days like a shadow, because he does not fear before God.

### Man Cannot Know God's Ways

**14**There is a vanity that takes place on earth, that there are righteous people to whom it happens according to the deeds of the wicked, and there are wicked people to whom it happens according to the deeds of the righteous. I said that this also is vanity. **15**And I commend joy, for man has nothing better under the sun but to eat and drink and be joyful, for this will go with him in his toil through the days of his life that God has given him under the sun.

**16**When I applied my heart to know wisdom, and to see the business that is done on earth, how neither day nor night do one's eyes see sleep, **17**then I saw all the work of God, that man cannot find out the work that is

done under the sun. However much man may toil in seeking, he will not find it out. Even though a wise man claims to know, he cannot find it out.

Introduction:

Ecclesiastes chapter 8 consists of several teaching and reflection. Verse 1 says, " ". It means the seer faich is changed into brightful figure comes out of the role of wisdom. What kinds of life does the one who has such wisdom? Let's listen to the answer out of the wise person.

First, we should admit and obey the authority.

Verses 2-8 teach that before the king we should do stupid, arrogant attitude and should admit the authority. " " (3) and also verse 4 says, " ". Because the wise person sees the man in the administration of God, to follow the wisdom of obedience is happy. It is wisdom because we do not know future, breath, the dead time, how to avoid the warfare to admit God's authority and to submit to them.

The Scripture stresses that we should respect the authority and obey the authority. In the family we should obey our parents and husband, in the business we should to our owner, in the country we should our king, and also in the church we should obey our pastor. The reason that Holy spirit comes into us is to learn the obedience to authority. Obedience is the main duty of the Christian and the foundation and means to establish the body.

As we know, Ephesians 5:22-24 teach that the submission in relationship of the couple is so important, and also 6:5-8 teaches that the submission to our owner and the obedience to every authority is so important. And the Lord surely shall repay proper things to them. The opposite attitude to every authority is true wisdom to obey them.

Second, We should admit the Lordship of God.

The obedience to general authorities aims to the obedience to absolute authority of God. In the ecclesiastes in verses 9-10 the preacher praised the Lord and his Lordship in seeing the abnormal world. In the world a certain man commits sin at several hundred times the long life may be happened in his life. Verse 14 says, " "When the righteous man was forgotten the power to do righteousness can be lost. the reason that God permitted this abnormal event is the event to reveal that the Lord is Lord. Ex: just like three friends of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego we should have the assurance of salvation in the future, and also we should have faith to offer our bodies to the Lord, as the confession, " if it shall not be happened we can not bow to the idol. This is the wisdom of the Lordship faith. When the Lordship of the Lord shall be established the power will; come upon us and the Lord shall be glorified.

Third, we should stay in the seat of the fear of the Lord.

Again the preacher exhorted that we should submit to the authorities and admit the sovereignty Lordship and abide in the seat of the fear of the Lord. So in verses 11-13 the ecclesiastes was filled with assurance " the one who fears the Lord shall be well." In his daily life by eating and drinking as he know the value of life that please God, and also be faithful to the present life is blessing. The fear of Jehovah is expressed by worshipping, praying and praising. Ex: Paul could offer the worship, praising and praying to God his miserable environment is not problem, rather he could say that prisoning life is gloomy of God. This is the seat of fear of the Lord. The place that such wisdom comes out of is the seat to honor the Lord and to fear him

Conclusion:

We should live in the true life of wisdom in our severe situation.



## 18. Spiritual Pleasure (Ecc 9:1-10)

**But all this I laid to heart, examining it all, how the righteous and the wise and their deeds are in the hand of God.** Whether it is love or hate, man does not know; both are before him. **2**It is the same for all, since the same event happens to the righteous and the wicked, to the good and the evil,<sup>a</sup> to the clean and the unclean, to him who sacrifices and him who does not sacrifice. As the good one is, so is the sinner, and he who swears is as he who shuns an oath. **3**This is an evil in all that is done under the sun, that the same event happens to all. Also, the hearts of the children of man are full of evil, and madness is in their hearts while they live, and after that

they go to the dead. **4**But he who is joined with all the living has hope, for a living dog is better than a dead lion. **5**For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing, and they have no more reward, for the memory of them is forgotten. **6**Their love and their hate and their envy have already perished, and forever they have no more share in all that is done under the sun. **7**Go, eat your bread with joy, and drink your wine with a merry heart, for God has already approved what you do. **8**Let your garments be always white. Let not oil be lacking on your head. **9**Enjoy life with the wife whom you love, all the days of your vain<sup>b</sup> life that he has given you under the sun, because that is your portion in life and in your toil at which you toil under the sun. **10**Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might,<sup>c</sup> for there is no work or thought or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol, to which you are going.

Introduction:

The preacher said that enjoying the spiritual delight that comes out of the fellowship with God is blessing in our lives. Verse 1 says, "But all this I laid to heart, examining it all, how the righteous and the wise and **their deeds are in the hand of God**. Whether it is love or hate, man does not know; both are before him."

Ex: in Christian life when we know that God listens to my request, we have amazing delight, but if we don't listen to the word of God with a harden heart like the diamond, he cannot enjoy the grace because he has no intimate communication. But many people put his delight on the other except God, they meet great problem. We want to listen to true delight, not false delight. What shall we enjoy in our lives? Money, or,

honor, or, relationship, or, power? What do you want to enjoy in your present life?

**First, we should enjoy the fact that we ourselves stay in the hand of God.**

In verses 1-6 , the preacher used "common destiny ," the term 4 times.

Verse 2 -3 says, "2It is **the same for all**, since **the same event** happens to the righteous and the wicked, to the good and the evil,<sup>a</sup> to the clean and the unclean, to him who sacrifices and him who does not sacrifice. As the good one is, so is the sinner, and he who swears is as he who shuns an oath. 3This is an evil in all that is done under the sun, that **the same event** happens to all. Also, the hearts of the children of man are full of evil, and madness is in their hearts while they live, and after that they go to the dead. "

Here, we find that the blessed man pursues to normal Christian state in daily life. Why? Beause the abnomal life shall bring confusion, chaos and darkness in our lives.

Although many people want to pursue the unique life, the distingushied life and the miraculous life, any time and anywhere. But the Scripture warns that the unique life may bring the great trouble to our lives. It means that responsibility and boasting shall be followed to him. As we know, the Apostle Paul exhorted us, in Philipian 4:11 , "Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. ".

Ex: Dr. Singlair Ferguson wrote a column about that verse. It reveals the image of a normal Christian. What is that? it is not some miraculous, wonderful event but, keeping his daily life,well according to the word of God. Philipian 3:16 says, "Only let us hold true to what we have attained."

Ex: many Cambodians pursue some unique life, the abundant life, and the bountiful life.

So they sacrifice to get more money until they have harmful body for his extreme work. I understand the situation but the way and the method is not the normal life. They should listen to the teaching of the preacher now. "Do not pursue the excellent life but the normal life. As we know, actually our health come out of keeping regular things, eating, drinking, sleeping, working, exersicing and having good relationship with our neighbor etc. Medically then our body products good hormones, "Endorphine or, Didolphine"(4000) for healing our weak body actually.

The preacher saw that common destiny life comes out of the hand of God. "how the righteous and the wise and **their deeds are in the hand of God.**" Although we have much passion in our lives to achieve our goal, remember that it works under the hand of God. How many things does God handle? The Scripture emphasizes that all things and every thing is contolled by almighty God. So we should be humble in the hand of God.

Ex: Herod king listened to flattering commendation by the Galilee men for his address. Then they intensely praise him "your voice is like the voice of God. Then he did not give the glory to God. Rather he enjoyed the flattering laudation that I am a great king momentarily. Then God hit him immediately. He was lied down on the ground. He was died. Why? Because he cannot control his unique life, the emotional environment. God did not please his moment arrogant action.

Ex: But the Apostle Paul pursues the normal life in Christ. Philipian 4:12-13 says, "I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. **13**I can do all things through him who strengthens me. ". Eally he understood true power, what are they? At any situation he can control all kinds of his event. He learned to enjoy in Christ. He was real great person. spiritual ginant Christian.

Therefore Don't we need the extinguished life? Yes, we need . we have to have the great vision , the big dream in our lives. But they should aim to enjoy the normal life in Christ. Especially he is a powerful man. So our Lord teaches that our daily life needs the humble life. " ". Then he enjoys the heavenly abundance in his heart. he can control his distinguished life. Do you have it?

**Second, we should thank and enjoy in our present life because I have living being.**

**And the preacher teaches the thanksgiving life in our life. Why? Because we are alive now. If we were died yesterday, we cannot sit down. We cannot study at it now. So we should thank to God for my living itself now.**

**Verse 4 says "But he who is joined with all the living has hope, for a living dog is better than a dead lion. "**

**As we know that the dog cannot contest against the lion, because the lion is king of animal kingdom. He rules over all animals. But the preacher points to the living dog is better than the dead lion. In Christian life we should thank God for little basic reason, "I am alive". So we can think, say, work and have some vision and activities. What does it mean? Now the preacher stresses to be faithful to the present thing in our lives.**

**Many men want to put his heart to the high place and best one. But the Scripture warns that if we have no the present life without faithful thinking, no blessing, no happiness no power and no authority in his life.**

**Proverb 17:24 says, "The discerning sets his face toward wisdom, but the eyes of a fool are on the ends of the earth." It means that he despises the present life because his heart has arrogance. Psalms 131:1-3 says, "O LORD, my heart is not lifted up; my eyes are not raised too high; I do not occupy**

myself with things too great and too marvelous for me. **2**But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child is my soul within me. **3**O Israel, hope in the LORD from this time forth and forevermore. "

**Is he a negative person? No he knows the real positive life in the light of Holy Spirit. Our Lord says, ""Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.(Mt 6:34) ". Is he so negative Lord? No, he knows the true hope, true visionary life very obviously and reveals the example. As we are faithful at present things, we can become a creative person. In contemporary day we need this image of Christian. Do you have it?**

### **Third, we should enjoy the life of sound family.**

The preacher points enjoying sound family. Verse 9 says, "**9**Enjoy life with the wife whom you love, all the days of your vain<sup>b</sup> life that he has given you under the sun, because that is your portion in life and in your toil at which you toil under the sun. **10**Whatever **9**Enjoy life with the wife whom you love, all the days of your vain<sup>b</sup> life that he has given you under the sun, because that is your portion in life and in your toil at which you toil under the sun. **10**Whatever " The preacher said that the object of our delight is to admit that every thing is controlled in the hand of God. And he stressed that our least foundation is a living being. We want to thank to God because God permit today life to me like a seed in the field. So we want to live humble heart in our lives. Although we have great dream in my life we want to stay in the low place to control every things. This is true prosperous way. Moreover we want to enjoy our family life. We want to keep the principle of creation.

Actually the life the best life, the most blessed life because the covenant is the foundation of family. Small heaven. So we should live real powerful man in the world. Cambodia, China South Korea and America any situation we should enjoy the normal life in the preacher in the world. May the grace of God be with you.

As we think Cambodia church, we feel that we stand up before Cambodian Goliath. , Among them, we should keep sound family. We should fix the broken order in the name of Jesus and also we should reveal an example to the neighbor. We have to the wonderful dream and the biblical dream in our family? According to this teaching we should keep sound family. First, we should reveal the normal Christian family. Like David you can do it. First of all, we have to enjoy our family life in Christ. By doing evangelism to your family and keeping daily godly life.

Conclusion.

Westminster confession says, what is your ultimate goal in your life? The answer is to enjoy God fully. Ephesians 3: 14 says, as Paul requested to God, "Fill you with his all of all. " We should enjoy the wonderful grace.

We should follow the thought of preacher, we admit the hand of God controls my whole life so we should pursue to the normal life and also we should put our eyes on the living God and his word. Then the Lord provides wonderful grace to you.

## **19. Growing up in grace (Ecc 9:11-18)**

**11**Again I saw that under the sun the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to the intelligent, nor favor to those with knowledge, but time and chance happen to them all. **12**For man does not know his time. Like fish that are taken in an evil net, and like birds that are caught in a snare, so the children of man are snared at an evil time, when it suddenly falls upon them.

**13**I have also seen this example of wisdom under the sun, and it seemed great to me. **14**There was a little city with few men in it, and a great king came against it and besieged it, building great siegeworks against it. **15**But there was found in it a poor, wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city. Yet no one remembered that poor man. **16**But I say that wisdom is better than might, though the poor man's wisdom is despised and his words are not heard.

**17**The words of the wise heard in quiet are better than the shouting of a ruler among fools. **18**Wisdom is better than weapons of war, but one sinner destroys much good.



## **Introduction:**

Although the fish moves swiftly, without the water, it will not be moved. And although the bird can fly hghly, without the air, it will do nothing. Just like without the grace of God, nobody can live for a while. So especially the Christian has to learn the truth to live by grace, day by day. As we know, in the Scripture in all great persons, Abraham, David and Paul had lived by the grace of God. They assured this truth , " but by the grace of God I am what I am"( I Corinthian 15:10) Do you believe that all your things come out of God's grace? If you say Amen, you can learn humility and faithfulness in your life, and you can enjoy the heart of the Psalter who contented the only God. (Ps 73:25) " Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you."

Like somebody observed that the reformers assured it in church history. "Every thought that claims free will (it is not autonomous but tends to incline to it) to establish humanism, always have stolen the glory of God in the history." Although the Ecclesiastes experienced his free activities and much sacrifices through much studies, still he found that everything comes out of God's grace. It reveals that everything was begun by the grace of God, was proceed by the grace of God and also was consummated by the grace of God. So we should grow up in grace of God in our lives, in our ministries. What do you think about the life of grace?

### **First, it means that we live in grace and humility.**

Here, The text reveals that he points the limitation of human sacrifice and teaches that we have to live in grace of God. Verses 11-12 says, "**11**Again I saw that under the

sun the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to the intelligent, nor favor to those with knowledge, but **time and chance happen to them all.**<sup>12</sup>For man does not know his time. Like fish that are taken in an evil net, and like birds that are caught in a snare, so the children of man are snared at an evil time, when it suddenly falls upon them.

He realized that a runner, a powerful person, a wise man, an insightful person and a talent man cannot reveal their gifts fully by themselves because of time and chance may be followed them. It means that everything was accomplished by the grace of God. ( Rom 8:28) **"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good for those who are called according to his purpose."**

The Scripture stresses that through time and accident God works for his glory. For example, an arrow that a man shot by chance hit the king Ahab, who was a wicked Israel king who was exchanged by the other clothe. I King says, " ".

And as Dina, Jacob's daughter was raped suddenly by Schem's chief son and then the great slaughtered event which was executed by Jacob's sons were not accident but one of God's plan in order to crush the bad sinful desire of Jacob. Then Jacob surrendered to God. "

And a disciple got a coin in the mouth of a fish to pay temple fee, according to Jesus'command, it is not accident but the God's permission. So without applying the grace of God to everything in the world, we cannot understand the reality. So we should confess that the primary principle of our life and our ministry is the only by grace of God. The motto of "sola gratia" should be applied to everything, not to only the salvation.

Therefore the humble life in grace of God should keep our daily life.

The humility is the vessel to receive grace, the humility is the fruit of the one who receives the grace. We should be humble to receive grace of God. "But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." ( James 4:6) ". We should stay at the low seat intensely and prudentially God shall make us been low through some suffering. ( Zephaniah 3:11) "On that day you shall not be put to shame because of the deeds by which you have rebelled against me; for then **I will remove from your midst your proudly exultant ones, and you shall no longer be haughty** in my holy mountain." God shall cut off all arrogance at the holy mountain. So we should live long for the grace of God and live in humility in your life.

**Second, although it is little thing, we should execute faithfully.**

Here, the Ecclesiae did not mean that without any sacrifice we can live. But rather, we should be faithful to a little things. As the grace has sincere sacrifice, it shall be gracious.

For example as we pray to God we need much sacrifice. And studying the Scripture, we need any sacrifice. Devil allures us to follow the direction of easy going direction that does not insult our sacrifice continually.

He promises that as we bows down to him, he shall give all glory of the world. It is lair. Verse 15 reveals an example that a man delivered his country with faithfulness to a little thing. But there was found in it a poor, wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city. Yet no one remembered that poor man.

In the Judges, Yael, a woman killed Sisera ( a chief of military commander) with her wisdom to save Israel in the crisis, ( Judges 4:22 ) "And behold, as Barak was pursuing Sisera, Jael went out to meet him and said to him, "Come, and I

will show you the man whom you are seeking." So he went in to her tent, and there lay Sisera dead, with the tent peg in his temple." And also Abigail made David's angry calmed down at her faithful attitude. ( 1 Sam 25:28) "Please forgive the trespass of your servant. For the LORD will certainly make my lord a sure house, because my lord is fighting the battles of the LORD, and evil shall not be found in you so long as you live"

Proverb 30:24-28 says, "Four things on earth are small, but they are exceedingly wise: **25the ants** are a people not strong, yet they provide their food in the summer; **26the rock badgers** are a people not mighty, yet they make their homes in the cliffs; **27the locusts** have no king, yet all of them march in rank; **28the lizard** you can take in your hands, yet it is in kings' palaces. ".

Here, God emphasized that it is so important to be faithful to a little thing. It is our main way to walk to a little thing faithfully, honestly and sincerely. We should go toward the direction.

### **Third, we should take sufficiency as only God himself.**

As we see that, grace makes humility and humility makes faithfulness and faithfulness makes wisdom in our lives. In a short word, it is the sufficient life. Why? Verses 15-16 reveal the reason to us. "But there was found in it a poor, wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city. Yet no one remembered that poor man. **16**But I say that wisdom is better than might, though the poor man's wisdom is despised and his words are not heard."

Although he saved his country out of trouble situation, the later generation shall forget it. Therefore we should not live to get some honor out of the others and to

receive some complimented out of the other. We should learn the sufficiency in our present life in Christ as Paul did in Philippians 4:12-13. "I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. **13**I can do all things through him who strengthens me. ".

Mary's devotion is so great thing because she stayed at this place. Lk 7:45-48 You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. **46**You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. **47**Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little." **48**And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." Because she knew that all thing came out of God, proceed by God and consummated by God she did it.

**Conclusion:**

The Christian is the one who lives in humble heart in grace of God with faithful heart to the little thing. Then we can enjoy the sufficiency in Christ.

## 20. The Wisdom to proclaim Christ's virtue (Ecc 10:5-20)

**5**There is an evil that I have seen under the sun, as it were an error proceeding from the ruler: **6**folly is set in many high places, and the rich sit in a low place. **7**I have seen slaves on horses, and princes walking on the ground like slaves.

**8**He who digs a pit will fall into it,  
and a serpent will bite him who breaks through a wall.

**9**He who quarries stones is hurt by them,  
and he who splits logs is endangered by them.

**10**If the iron is blunt, and one does not sharpen the edge,  
he must use more strength,  
but wisdom helps one to succeed.<sup>b</sup>

**11**If the serpent bites before it is charmed,  
there is no advantage to the charmer.

**12**The words of a wise man's mouth win him favor,<sup>c</sup>  
but the lips of a fool consume him.

**13**The beginning of the words of his mouth is foolishness,  
and the end of his talk is evil madness.

**14**A fool multiplies words,  
though no man knows what is to be,  
and who can tell him what will be after him?

15The toil of a fool wearies him,  
for he does not know the way to the city.

16Woe to you, O land, when your king is a child,  
and your princes feast in the morning!

17Happy are you, O land, when your king is the son of the nobility,  
and your princes feast at the proper time,  
for strength, and not for drunkenness!

18Through sloth the roof sinks in,  
and through indolence the house leaks.

19Bread is made for laughter,  
and wine gladdens life,  
and money answers everything.

20Even in your thoughts, do not curse the king,  
nor in your bedroom curse the rich,  
for a bird of the air will carry your voice,  
or some winged creature tell the matter.

### **Introduction:**

The Christian was called for the man who proclaims Christ's merit to the neighbor as soon as he accepts Jesus Christ as his savior and his Lord. So Peter claims that we should proclaim the viture (excellence) that Christ made us entered into wonderful (marvelous) light in I Peter 2:9. It means that this is the purpose of our calling anyplace, anytime. What is the true viture? It points the life to be worthy to the gospel that

Christ's merit is applied. So Paul defined that it is the life to be worthy to the gospel, and the life to keep the union that the Holy Spirit made in us. Ephesian 3:1-6 says, "I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, [2](#)with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, [3](#)eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. [4](#)There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—[5](#)one Lord, one faith, one baptism, [6](#)one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. And also the Lord stressed that to clean our feet one another, and to love each other is the target of our lives. John 13:34-35 says, A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. [35](#)By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Several proverbs that ecclesiastes chapter 10 reveals to us what the most blessed life is the man of the fear of Lord that is, in comparing with wisdom and fool, he reveals the excellence of wisdom under the sun. In this time we are going to think of only three things to establish the virtue in our lives. What wisdom does the the man of virtue need in his life?

### **First, he needs calm silence. (1-6)**

Already we had thought the wisdom that we should think of both God and ourselves through 7:15, (In my vain life I have seen everything. There is a righteous man who perishes in his righteousness, and there is a wicked man who prolongs his life in his evil doing.). Again as the preacher talks about the



foolishness of the man as, he meets suffering, failure and trouble, he teaches the attitude of silence. This is the wisdom of the man of virtue. Verses 10-12 says "that small foolishness destroys wisdom and honor. As the foolish has the honorable place, he shall live in the foolishness." Verses 5-6 say that for the leader is foolish the foolish got great position and the rich man get the lowly position and the servant ride on the horse and the price walks on the ground. So before the fury of the Lord we should keep calm silence. As he meet the unfair treatment, if we keep calm attitude, his great fault can be pardoned by the other easily.

The man of virtue should learn Jesus's silence in his wisdom. We see that in Ish 53:7-8, He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. [8](#)By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people?" After 700 years, a Cantage financial chief in Kush read this passage on the desert. What was Christ who he found? It points the silence of cross of Christ. It is the silence by making us thought his infinitive grace and his abundant love. The silence that bears his own cross accomplished the greatest work, redemption in the history. As we think of the abundant love, we can take rest in him. We should taste the abundant redemption by thinking of Christ's silence, we should make our neighbors been renewal. As we see, the virtuous man first learn silence in Christ.

**Second, he needs the wisdom of precaution. (8-11)**

The virtuous man prepares the future because he looks at the tomorrow in the illumination of Holy Spirit. Our lord prepared all things to solve our anxiety. ( Jn 14:1-3). The Christian who is the virtuous man prepared everything in his life for God's glory. The man who digs snare was fallen down in it. The man who destroys the wall was bitten by snake. The one who breaks the stone was harmed by it. The one who cut off the wood was endangered. (8). So the preacher commands that we should make the dull instrument sharpen, (10) Before he was bitten by snake, he should learn the skill to protect himself. (12) It means that the man of virtue should be the life of preparation.

So we should be diligent (15-19) although the prince who takes pleasure with the young king makes the kingdom perished. But the kingdom which the princes ate some food to get the energy, the not drunkard man is so blessed. (16) We should take the precaution for the future.

### **Third, he needs the gracious word. (12-20)**

The virtuous man of Christ has much job to help our neighbors with words. So he should make his word to add the salt ( grace, mercy and self-control) The influence of the wise and the foolish is different. The word that comes out of the mouth of the wise man is gracious but the mouth of the foolish destroy himself. (12) The word of mouth is foolish and the end is violent. (13) Although the foolish speaks much things he do not know his future. (14) So verse 20 says, "20Even in your thoughts, do not curse the king, nor in your bedroom curse the rich, for a bird of the air will carry your voice, or some winged creature tell the matter. ". We should stay at the seat that the Holy Spirit controls as the witness of Christ.

### **Conclusion:**

The virtuous man makes our neighbor been gracious. Then we should be filled with Christ's virtue in our heart. We should learn walking in slence, and we should know the real problems and we should take precation. We should say gracious words to heal our neighbors. May the grace of God be with you all.

## 21. **Cast your food to the water (Ecc 11:1-8)**

**1**Cast your bread upon the waters,  
for you will find it after many days.

**2**Give a portion to seven, or even to eight,  
for you know not what disaster may happen on earth.

**3**If the clouds are full of rain,  
they empty themselves on the earth,  
and if a tree falls to the south or to the north,  
in the place where the tree falls, there it will lie.

**4**He who observes the wind will not sow,  
and he who regards the clouds will not reap.

**5**As you do not know the way the spirit comes to the bones in the womb<sup>a</sup> of a woman with child, so **you do not know the work of God who makes everything.**

6In the morning sow your seed, and at evening withhold not your hand, for you do not know which will prosper, this or that, or whether both alike will be good.

7Light is sweet, and it is pleasant for the eyes to see the sun.

8So if a person lives many years, let him rejoice in them all; but let him remember that the days of darkness will be many. All that comes is vanity.<sup>b</sup>

### **Introduction:**

We live in the day of fulfillment of Daniel's prophesy. Dan 12:4 says, "But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase." So we get much information easily through internet and trips. Among them we observe that our country, Cambodia needs much aid about the first dimension, water, electricity, food, basic medicine, cleaning issue etc. So, after salvation our concern should return to the alms issue. First, we should prepare the spiritual helps and next we should prepare to help the actual physical areas of our neighbors.

So we listen to the teaching of the Ecclesiastes about giving the alms well, and also we should realize the biblical teaching of alms. Why? Because actually many people are waiting for physical health aid, psychological help, and natural famine aid etc. Moreover, in the spiritual world, many people are waiting for Christ's gospel, the eternal life, true direction.

As we know, 95 % Cambodian Buddhists have no hope to this day and in the future day because they don't know the way, the truth and the life, Jesus Christ. So they are fallen down

into so miserable seat to get real help. But it is empty.

Ex: I saw in You Tub, that at Tibet area, nearby China, the unique Buddhism controls the them, there, I saw the figure that some people kneeled down and upset on the mountain road and climbed towards the top. Why? Because they believe that they can get their help with his power, they tried to climb to the top of mountain faithfully. It is so ridiculous thing. We find many similar kinds to get the ultimate goal. But Acts 4:12 obviously says, "And there is salvation in no one else, **for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.**"

The Evangelist who stresses Christian nihilism lived as a God- centric man, because he knew the new life, to love God wholeheartedly and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Now he reveals to give alms to the neighbor rightly to us.

How should the Christian take the right attitude of the alms in his whole life? Now we think of the right attitude of our alms in the confused world.

### **First, What is to give the alms? (2)**

1. Verses 1-2 reveal to give the alms is expressed by the metaphors, "cast the bread on the water", "give a portion to the other". "**Casting your bread** upon the waters, for you will find it after many days.**2Give a portion to seven, or even to eight,** for you know not what disaster may happen on earth.

Hebrew term "give (Nathan divide)", "cast (Soara, send)" points to share

my portion to the neighbor.

2. Our help to the other should be stood firm on the foundation of the second part of Ten Commandment, "love your neighbor as your body."

In other words it means to stand on the foundation of to love God wholeheartedly. Without loving God, we cannot help our neighbor because we do not know how to love to the other.

Ex: In the day of our Lord, the hypocrite helped to the other, But they took show-up to get the respect of the people through helping activities. Finally they did not give aids to the other truly. Finally they Mark 12:40 " who devour widow houses and for a pretwense make long prayers. They will receives the greater condemnation. "

So The alms needs to do two things.

1) he should cast his possession – It means to send his possession to the other like we sent a bird to the air.

2) He should divide his portion to help to the other. If he cannot break his treasure he cannot help them Ex: A woman pour out a nard perfume to Jesus, first she should break out the cover. After it was broken, the perfume come out of the bottle to the outside.

Without any sacrifice we cannot help to the other.

Ex: Many Cambodia help to the poverty persons but the Christianity alms should be offered wholeheartedly.

Ex: Tithe is God's money and 90% also is God's money we should serve 100% as God's money as a steward in our lives.

## **Second, why should we give the alms to the neighbor?**

Verse 2 points, "Give a portion to seven, or even to eight, for you know not what disaster may happen on earth." Here, we see the reason to give the alms as followings, What are they?

First, because to give the alms is the duty that we should execute as our nature. If we receive something and do not give to the other, we shall be dead for indigestion, like the dead sea. So to give mine to the other is the natural law and the spiritual law. Just it is like when the water does not move in a limited space, it shall be rotten soon. The one who gives something is more blessed than the receiver because his life is activated in every areas. So the Lord stressed, "give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you." (Lk 6:38)

Second, Because the kingdom of God shall be enlarged by giving the alms. Look at the early church in the Acts. The evidence that they received grace was to reveal alms. (Acts 2:45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.) The offering means that they returned what they received out of God to God and the alms, donation, contribution is related to offering. When we give ours to the neighbor, we should remember that the alms is not ours but God's. As a stewards we use God's possession not my possession to help the other.

At John chapter one, in the process of evangelism at the first time, we find that Andrew

proclaimed Christ to Peter Simon, his brother, and Philipp to Nathanael, and then 12 disciples were gathered, 120 members were gathered at the upper room of Mark, and then 3000 members were believed in Christ and 5000 Christians and now we see 500 million Christians in 7600 million. Like the miracle of five breads and two fish, the influence was spread to all the world spiritually, psychologically, socially and continuously.

Third, Because we do not know the future, we should take alms, as we have some chance in our lives. (4-5) the farmer scatters the seed according to the power of wind, and he take the crops according to the state of the cloud. We do not know the way of wind and the process to form the baby in the mother's womb. We do not know the work of God that accomplishes everything. So it points that after you planted the seeds in the morning but you should not remove the hands. Therefore we should decide that we shall live the life of alms as our goal of the life. We should not become the receiver but the giver to the other. It is the method to glorify God in detail. ( I Cor 10:31) "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

### **Third, how should we execute the alms? (1, 2)**

Then how can we give alms to the neighbors? Verses 1-2 says, "**1**Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days. **2**Give a portion to seven, or even to eight, for you know not what disaster may happen on earth." We find three methods in the passages.

#### **1) First, the alms should be executed in secret,**

We should cast the food on the water. It means to give the alms in secret. "**1**Cast your



bread upon the waters, ". In a common sense, as we put bread in the water, it shall be broken and melted soon, and we cannot see the figure. Just like this one, after we give the alms to the other we should forget it soon. Ex: Why did Ananias and Shaphira receive the punishment at their offering? Because they could not forget his offering for their covet. In other words they wanted to boast their activities to the neighbors.

## **2) Second, the alms is to cast his own food on the water.**

Cast your own possession. It means to cast our own gift, our own sacrifice and our food to the other. Just like a candle stic, It should stand firm on the foundation of love sacrifice.

## **3)Third, the alms should be shared with the heart of God.**

It means to give many help. This is the heart of overcomers. Ex: Moses gave his life to his people. Jesus Christ gave his life as the substitute offering to his own people. As we submit the offering, we should give many things and our own possession in secret according to the method of alms.

## **Conclusion:**

### **My beloved saints!**

According to the preacher's teaching when we give alms to the neighbor what shall we expect the result of alms?

Verse 1 says, "for you will find it after many days." It means that God watches out our alms. After many days he can get more again like Joseph and Stephen. They provided many things to the other, but he got many things out of God.

When we help to the other with much sacrifice God promised we can participate into his glory. Finally he was used by God for God's ministry. Now the Lord wants to have your heart than your money. We should offer my food and my heart to theother. Then the wonderful reward shall be happened in the future.

5)

조 이야기의 결론 (12:8-14)

(3)

조이야기의 평가 (12:8-12)

(4)

결론: 하나님을 경외하라. (12:13-14)

## 22. Prepare the day of Judgment (Ecc 12:1-8)

**1**Remember also your Creator in **the days of your youth**, before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, "**I have no pleasure in them**"; **2**before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return after the rain, **3**in the day when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those who look through the windows are dimmed, **4**and the doors on the street are shut—when the

sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought low— **5**they are afraid also of what is high, and terrors are in the way; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along,<sup>a</sup> and desire fails, because man is going to his eternal home, and the mourners go about the streets— **6**before the silver cord is snapped, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher is shattered at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern, **7**and **the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God** who gave it. **8**Vanity<sup>b</sup>of vanities, says the Preacher; all is vanity.

Introduction:

1.In this semester we have received wonderful grace out of God through personal studying, personal devotional life and listening to the Word of God in the chapel time. Especially I could treat the whole Ecclesiastes at ITCS chapel time. According to my division of this book, now we think of the final section. (2:1-8)

2.Especially I appreciate you for your faithful cooperation to understand the truth.

As we see, the text stresses our present preparation before God's last judgment. Heb 9:27 "And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, ". How do we prepare our lives before the judgement of God? How can we

prepare our present life well? To give good answer to this question, we should understand the main theme of the Ecclesiastes, "the meaning of vanity of the preacher" well.

As we see that it is same meaning of the empty state before creation. And at the other time we think that our lives should be producted the fruit through the alms. "**Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days. 2Give a portion to seven, or even to eight,** for you know not what disaster may happen on earth."

And also according to verse 1, we should think how we can prepare at the youth time to reveal the eternal fruit. If we know the fact that the present time shall settle the life of future, we shall be awoken in our present life. Why? Because we have the eternal life we have the fear of the Lord and obeying heart to the Word. if we do not believe in Christ, we have been condemned immediately. "In 3:18 says, "Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God ".

= How can we prepare the future at our youth time? How can we bring up the eternal fruit at the last day?

**First. We should take care of the present lives by thinking of the judgment seat.**

Our knowledge that we live before the seat of judgment shall make the different lives. So the preacher stresses the consciousness of Coram Deo (in front of God). verse 1 says, "Remember also your Creator in **the days of your youth**, before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, "**I have no pleasure in them**" It teaches the importance of consciousness of judgement. Here remember means "Jakar means "*remember, recall, call to mind*, usually as

affecting present feeling, thought, or action.” It is meditation – lamentation in our heart. = Consider the Lord of faith. Ex: Only thinking the Lord is good in my heart. As we think the creator, we have thanksgiving heart, fearful heart, loving heart sincere heart and humble heart.- repentance and faith. Devotion and commitment.

Ex: In Luke 14: we find that a rich man had no this judgement. After he got much crop, he confessed that “my soul, let’s build up much storage and let’s eat and drink sufficient food to enjoy our lives”, Then the Lord requested “If I deprivated your soul, whose possession become your property?” The Lord evaluated that he is so foolish. All his sacrifice had gone momentarily.

So today the text stressed that we should live before God, in speaking, in saying, in thinking and in deciding. This is the way of wisdom.

As we know that the Scripture reveals three kinds of judgment.

**1) the one is the judgment that shall be met at this world,** that is, the providential judgement. Now in our lives God establishes the righteousness by several methods, those are; hitting by the thunder, by the traffic accident, by the famine and the earthquake etc.

**2) the other is the judgement that we shall be met after death.**

As we know, Luke chapter reveals that after the death of the rich person he went to the hell but after the death of poor Lazarus, he entered into the heaven. We shall experience the same situation in the future.

**3) we find the last eternal judgment in the Scripture.**

It shall be the judgment before the white throne like the division between the goat group and the lamb group. It is the last judgment to insult his people into new heaven and new earth. It is the last ultimate judgement among lots judgments in the history. The one who has the wisdom lives to look at the throne of God. Therefore he lives as the thetheist. They get the good fruit in their lives that is, the fruit of Holy Spirit. ( Gal 5:22-23) Why did Paul proclaim the gospel with much sacrifice as our model, day and night with much sacrifice? Because he looked at the day of judgement always.

= Worldly Extentialisim stress the meaning in moment by moment to be faithful. Although we do not want to follow the teaching of secular existentialism but we need the Christian existentialism, the spiritual tension. It means to have that consciousness that today is my last day. So Richard Baxst preached the word of God with such tension. " today is my last day, after I preach the word of God I have no another chance in my life." So he was faithful to his one time preaching before God. We need this consciousness any time any place.

## **Second, We should leave out of the seat of committing sin.**

And also if we want to live fruitful life, we should leave out of sins in our heart. Verse 11:9 says to leave out of sins. "Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth. Walk in the ways of your heart and the sight of your eyes. But know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment.". 1) we should leave out of anxiety because the flesh anxiety makes the spiritual death. 2) we should leave out of evil Because the evil is the opposited thing against the will of God. It destroys the soul and body. We should escape out of egoism that captived our soul because it destroys by himself. How does the egoist destroy himself? In the parable of prodigal the autonomomus and extreme egoism that Adam had. Satan always

makes us dropped to this one. Paul warns that In the last time the lawless man shall be revealed in the world. He is the anti Christ. He is humanist.

Ex: We lives exttremed egoism in the contemporary day any place and any time. It is developed into the philosophy , you yourself is real god. This thinking coveres our heart. in church. It is so craftful by the temptation of Satan. We should leave out of this dangerous seat. So we need to assure that oursalvation come out of depends on the revelation in our every areas, thinking, feeling and volition. We enconterto the Buddhism in Cambodia. We should look at the extreme humanism by the word of God. As we are handeled by the Word of God. then we can vercome our dangerous situation.

### **Third, We should live wisely in the original laws of the creation.**

The one is the negative method, the other is positive method. "Remember also your Creator in **the days of your youth**, (1)" what does it mean? (1) It means that we should live in the center of creator. Who is the center of our life? Jehovah God. Trinity God. So we should remember the creator in our lives. So God command to keep Sabbath day. Exodus 20:8 says, ""Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy."

And also verses 3-8 reveal 14 physical descriptions to remember the creator.

1. before the keepers of the house tremble – weak leg
2. before the strong men are bent, - bent loin
3. before the grinders cease because they are few, - weak teeth

- 4 before those who look through the windows are dimmed – weak sight power
5. before the doors on the street are shut – listening ear
6. before in the day when the keepers of the house tremble - standing power
7. and one rises up at the sound of a bird, - vocal function
8. and all the daughters of song are brought low – voice sound
9. the change of physical activities (6-12)- weak power
10. the sound of the grinding is low, teeth number
11. one rises up at the sound of a bird, little sleeping
12. the silver cord is snapped, the golden bowl is broken, - nerve and vein etc
13. or the pitcher is shattered at the fountain,
14. or the wheel broken at the cistern,
- and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.

We should remember, live, settle before this situation.



Conclusion:

My beloved saints,

As we know like the confession of the preacher, Moses, who had lived 120 years in the world (40 years for learning worldly sciences, 40 years for training by the hand of God and 40 years for serving the wilderness church) he expressed his understanding of his whole life in Ps 90:9-10. For all our days pass away under your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

**10**The years of our life are seventy,  
or even by reason of strength eighty;  
yet their span<sup>e</sup> is but toil and trouble;  
they are soon gone, and we fly away.

This is the way of truth to get blessed state. Just like this one, the last day shall come to us soon. Then we should remember our creator and his will before the day comes to us, at the young time. Furthermore we should know the Scripture, believe in it and love the Lord and live in the hope. Like Timothy did, "and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ( II Tim 3:16)", We should have such assurance in our lives. May the grace of God be with you all.

#### 24. Essential Duty of the life (Ecc 12:9-14)

**9**Besides being wise, the Preacher also taught the people knowledge, weighing and studying and arranging many proverbs with great care. **10**The Preacher sought to find words of delight, and uprightly he wrote words of truth.

**11**The words of the wise are like goads, and like nails firmly fixed are the collected sayings; they are given by one Shepherd. **12**My son, beware of anything beyond these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh.

**13**The end of the matter; all has been heard. **Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.**<sup>c</sup> **14**For God will

**bring every deed into judgment**, with<sup>d</sup> every secret thing, whether good or evil.

### **Introduction:**

Duty always makes us feel a heavy burden in our lives. As we understand praying, keeping the Lord's day, offering the tithe, loving our neighbor as our main duty, we may feel much burden. But if we accept them as my privilege, as my blessing, we can enjoy them. But actually no executing duty, no blessing in our lives. It is the spiritual principle. So God commands that his people should obey his command. This is the main life in the world. Covenant people feels that obedience of the Word is happiness, power, privilege and wonderful blessing.

As the Ecclesiastes revealed many cases (work, pleasure, honor, wealth, long life, preciousness, wisdom, covet, ownership and serventship etc) under the sun. he concluded that everything is vanity. So he wanted to make us to abide in the word of God because it is the only way of our happiness. Verses 12:13-14 says, "**13**The end of the matter; all has been heard.

**Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.**<sup>c</sup> **14**For **God will bring every deed into judgment**, with<sup>d</sup> every secret thing, whether good or evil."

What strengthen our life more? The text reveals it to us obviously. We believe that as we have assurance to the essential duty, we can live in the great protection. Do you have such protection in your life? We want to make sure our blessed life in this time.

**First. what is the essential duty of our Life?**

Verse 13 says, "The end of the matter; all has been heard. **Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.**" After the ecclesiastes reviews all things, he defined what the duty of the life is. It is "fear God and keep his commandments." To Fear God means to lift up God with trembling loving heart. And keeping his commandment means to apply the command in our lives. So it is our main purpose and our powerful source. NIV translated it into "the whole duty" (NIV) that is the main purpose, the ultimate goal in our lives. It is miserable that as a man lost this purpose, he shall be like the tree who was cut off out of the root. Ps 1: 3 says, " ". So when the wind blow to him, his life shall be shaken in his life. In this time we think of two facts that the text stresses to us.

**First, it is to have the fear of God in his life.** Here fear includes spiritual trembling, the fearful element and affection and love. Ps 2:11-12 says, "**1**Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. **12**Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him." Here, trembling and kissing are revealed. In other word it points spiritual tension or, awakening attitude before God. The heart comes out of the Holy Spirit. It points the sincere and awakening heart.

The contemporary church lost this divine fear because she do not pursue to godliness and righteousness, but ungodliness and unrighteousness. In other words, the church and the Christian follows secular desire, sinful desire to fill his covet with worldly treasures. Just like Laodicea church did, the church is not hot and is not cold. She lives in spiritual idleness. So they could not be grown up soundly. Their power is covered by worldly cares, pleasure and monism. So they cannot reveal the wonderful power and the strong power to the darkness in the world. So the result is to live as the darkness in the world and as the tasteless in the world. Really in this day Cambodia needs the one who has the fear of the

Lord. Actually the fear of God points the faith in the New Testament. Abraham has the faith, Paul has the faith and in the metaphor Lazarus has the faith, the fear of the Lord. As Abraham believes in God, He was reckoned as righteousness. Genesis 15:6 says, "And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness." The righteousness is the fear of the Lord. Then he can stand firmly before God and can communicate with God. And also he can give wonderful grace to them by faith.

**Second, it means to obey the Word of God.** The fear of Lord is connected to the obedience to His word. The obedience needs to have respectable heart to the Word of God in our heart. Luke chapter 5 reveals that Peter cast the net to the deep water on the sea of Galilee " According to the command of Jesus then he got much fish Then he got spiritual knowledge out of this event. This fear and obedience should be my root, my background, my foundation and the basis of my knowledge, my emotion and my volition. Where did it come out of? When we know the judger, God, it comes out of that knowledge. (14)

If anybody loses this duty in his life, he lives the life to go astray. The one who depends on the blood and the man shall be cursed. The one who depends on God in obedience and godly fear shall be blessed. (Jeremiah 17:6-7 Thus says the LORD:

"Cursed is the man who trusts in man  
and makes flesh his strength,<sup>a</sup>  
whose heart turns away from the LORD.

6He is like a shrub in the desert,  
and shall not see any good come.

He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness,  
in an uninhabited salt land. 7"Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD,  
whose trust is the LORD.) The church and the family need such foundation. Then they can enjoy God's grace. Why did Elijah seek this one, the double inspiration? Because he

knew the blessing very well in his life. The double power in Spirit is stronger than human artificial power and human craft wisdom.

## **Second, how can we accomplish the duty of the man?**

But we do not have the sufficient heart before we know the essence of the life but we should keep the knowledge in our lives by having good habit in our lives. Above of all, we should listen to the voice of our shepherd in our lives. (12) "My son, beware of anything beyond these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh.

" Psalms chapter 23:1-2 says, "1The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.<sup>a</sup> ". John chapter 10 stresses that the shepherd Jesus feed his sheep and protects them eternally, completely and makes them enjoyed the abundant life. As we eat the word of God we can keep the essence in our lives. Because the word have the source of the knowledge and the power to keep the essence. In other words, it is the purpose and the method and power like the presence of Trinity God.

Everyday when we eat the word, we can keep the foundation, anytime anyplace. How can we treat the word of God to enjoy the our blessed purpose? We can follow the direction of II Timothy 3:16-17. "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,17that the man of God<sup>b</sup> may be complete, equipped for every good work.

". The Scripture has 4 features in it. What are they? 1) It shall be come to us by teaching. So we have to listen to the teaching obviously and meditate it and apply them in our present

life. And it shall be revealed by rebuking to us so we should accept this punishment in our heart and accept it thankfully. Although we feel painful in our heart. We should repent it. We have to learn responsibility. And also we should hold his faithful covenant before God. And also it shall be corrected by the obvious teaching. Then we have to be awakened in our present lives. And we should follow the way of righteousness. We can seek the kingdom of God and the righteousness, mercy and faithfulness first. We can be changed a renewal life through connecting to the Word of God. (10)

What is the actual power of the Word of God?

God stressed that only his word is the essence of the life. Matthew 4:4 says, "But he answered, "It is written,

""Man shall not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.""

A Christian find it in his life, he shall get wonderful way in his life. When he handle this word in his situation, he shall get the wonderful grace out of God.

Example look at the work of Elisa. When they didn't product some fruit out of their tree, they got trouble time. Then Elisa cured the problem by the word of God. Only Jehovah is the healer in the world. He shines the ray of healing to us now. Go to him now with humble heart by faith. Then we shall see the glory of God.

**Third, How can we keep this essence in our lives ?**

We should stand firm in the consciousness of God's judgement. Verse 14 says, "**14For God will bring every deed into judgment**, with<sup>d</sup> every secret thing, whether good or evil.

- What shall he judge? Every deed, every secret things (Ps 139: says, sitting, standing, thinking)
- How can he judge? Two part, good or evil. Two way, two place.
- What is the criterion? It is the essence of the whole life, what is it? It is the expression of faith. The faith is the standard of christian life. Ex: Mt 25: What is the criterion of judgment before the white throne? Is it the work? No, It is the faith that was expressed by their work. So we have to live the work by faith. Gen 18:19 points obviously the purpose God chose Abraham is to live righteousness and justice in their lives. .

What is your ultimate goal in your life? To glorify God and to enjoy God.  
**How can we keep this essence in our lives ?** We should stand firm in the consciousness of God's judgement.

## Conclusion

My beloved saints, May the grace of God be with you in order to love the Lord like Peter did to the Lord. "Do you love me truly? Then he confessed "you know that I love you." This is the actual life of the fear of the Lord. Today we listened to the word of God from the Ecclesiastes about the essence of the man in his whole life. Many people are wandering in their precious life because they do not know this truth and they pursue on the other essence, money, pleasure, and covet, honor and their hobby. The result shall be vanity, darkness, and chaos. Already we know that the one who knows the gospel, enjoy this grace in Christ. We believe that only Jesus Christ is the way, the life and the truth.



Finally True blessing of the life is begun with responding to the love of God, Then he know the essence of the life. He can live with the fear of the Lord in the world. So the Christian shall praise the Lord because he found it only in Christ.

## **Redemptive Historical verses – Ecclesiastes**

### **1. Theme of Ecclesiastes**

(Ecc 12:13-14) The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man<sup>14</sup> For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

### **2. No new things under the sun**

(Ecc 1:2) Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

### **3. Wisdom and Knowledge without God**

(Ecc 1:18) For in much wisdom is much vexation, and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow.

### **4. Delight that God put in Christ**

(Ecc 2:11) Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun.

### **5. Wisdom and Foolishness**

(Ecc 2:16) For of the wise as of the fool there is no enduring remembrance, seeing that in the days to come all will have been long forgotten. How the wise dies just like the fool!

### **6. True Meaning of the sacrifice of man**

(Ecc3:24) So I saw that there is nothing better than that a man should rejoice in his work, for that is his lot. Who can bring him to see what will be after him?

7. **The Grown Life** (Ecc3:11)

(Ecc3:11) He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

8. **The Blessed Life**

(Ecc3:14) He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

9. **Lamentation of the wise man**

(Ecc4:6) Better is a handful of quietness than two hands full of toil and a striving after wind.

10. **Condition of Spiritual Leadership**

(Ecc4:13) Better was a poor and wise youth than an old and foolish king who no longer knew how to take advice.

11. **The Word that comes out of Godly Heart**

(Ecc 5:1) Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. To draw near to listen is better than to offer the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they are doing evil.

12. **The View of Christian Materialism**

(Ecc 5:12) Sweet is the sleep of a laborer, whether he eats little or much, but the full stomach of the rich will not let him sleep.

13. **The Knowledge of God and the knowledge of man**

(Ecc 6:11) There is an evil that I have seen under the sun, and it lies heavy on mankind:

14. **Think at the trouble time**

(Ecc7:14) In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider: God has made the one as well as the other, so that man may not find out anything that will be after him.

15. **The Balanced Life**

(Ecc7:18) It is good that you should take hold of this, and from that withhold not your hand, for the one who fears God shall come out from both of them.

16. **Am I a honest man?**

(Ecc 7:29) See, this alone I found, that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes.

17. **The Life of the wise**

(Ecc 8:17) When I saw all the work of God, that man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun. However much man may toil in seeking, he will not find it out. Even though a wise man claims to know, he cannot find it out.

18. **Spiritual delight**

(Ecc 9:9) Enjoy life with the wife whom you love, all the days of your vain life that he has given you under the sun, because that is your portion in life and in your toil at which you toil under the sun

19. **Grow up in the grace**

(Ecc 9:17) The words of the wise heard in quiet are better than the shouting of a ruler among fools.

20. **The Wisdom of the virtuos man**

(Ecc 10:10) If the iron is blunt, and one does not sharpen the edge, he must use more strength, but wisdom helps one to succeed.

21. **Cast your food on the Water**

(Ecc 11:1) Remove vexation from your heart, and put away pain<sup>2</sup> from your body, for youth and the dawn of life are vanity.

22. **Fruit of Alms**

(Ecc11:6) In the morning sow your seed, and at evening withhold not your hand, for you do not know which will prosper, this or that, or whether both alike will be good.

23. **Prepare the day of harvest**

(Ecc11:9) Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth. Walk in the ways of your heart and the sight of your eyes. But know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment.

24. **The Word of the wise man**

(Ecc 12:11) The words of the wise are like goads, and like nails firmly fixed are the collected sayings; they are given by one Shepherd.