

Eccl 6:1-6**The goodness and the chastisement of the Lord****Review**

1. It is the heritage and gift of God that we can enjoy the good of our labour
2. Yet we should not dwell unduly concerning our days...but to rejoice
3. Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness
4. Exercise faith and trust that the Lord will add and provide according to our needs

Another evil

"There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, and it is common among men:" Eccl 6:1

1. A reference to something bad
2. The physical blessings of God
"A man to whom God has given riches and wealth and honor, so that he lacks nothing for himself of all he desires;" Eccl 6:2
3. But God can also withdraw His blessings
"Yet God does not give him power to eat of it, but a foreigner consumes it." Eccl 6:2
4. Vanity of life
"This is vanity, and it is an evil affliction." Eccl 6:2
5. Significance...the chastisement of the Lord
 - a) Deut 28
 - b) Judges 6
 - c) Haggai 1

Another problem

1. A hypothetical situation
"If a man begets a hundred children and lives many years, so that the days of his years are many, but his soul is not satisfied with goodness, or indeed he has no burial," Eccl 6:3
 - a) A man has 100 children and lives many years
 - b) The focus is that the "achievements" of life are not everything
 - c) No satisfaction
 - d) No burial

2. Comparison with a stillborn child

a) A stillborn child is seen as better off

"I say that a stillborn child is better than he" Eccl 6:3

b) Despite its difficulties

"For it comes in vanity and departs in darkness, and its name is covered with darkness. 5 Though it has not seen the sun or known anything, this has more rest than that man," Eccl 6:4-5

c) More rest than the man

"This has more rest than that man, 6 even if he lives a thousand years twice—but has not seen goodness. Do not all go to one place? Eccl 6:5,6

d) Death

The goodness of the Lord

1. Psalm 65... A Psalm of David focusing on the goodness of God

"You crown the year with Your goodness, and Your paths drip with abundance." Ps 65:11

2. Appreciating the goodness of the Lord

3. Types of blessings

a) Physical blessings

Ps 65:9

b) Spiritual blessings

Ps 65:3-4

c) Special blessings

Ps 65:5

Lessons to be learned

1. Not to take for granted the blessings of God

2. To include God in all aspects of our lives

3. To be warned that if we exclude God in our lives...disobey Him, He will chastise us.

4. To be satisfied with the abundant goodness and blessings of the Lord

5. To respond with rejoicing and praise to the Lord