

Eccl 6:10-12

The pursuit of a meaningful life

Review

1. To learn contentment
 - a) Satisfied
 - b) Joy
 - c) No anxiety
2. To appreciate what we have
3. To avoid being covetous of the things we don't have

Understanding man

"Whatever one is, he has been named already, for it is known that he is man; and he cannot contend with Him who is mightier than he." Eccl 6:10

1. The problem with man
2. Contending with God
3. A reminder of what man is Ps 8

The pursuit of the things of the world

"Since there are many things that increase vanity, how is man the better?" Eccl 6:11

1. The pursuit of many things
2. Yet these things increase vanity
3. He recognises that man is not better off as a result of his pursuits

A sobering reality of the unknown

"For who knows what is good for man in life, all the days of his vain life which he passes like a shadow? Who can tell a man what will happen after him under the sun?" Eccl 6:12

1. Solomon raised a challenging question
 - a) What is truly good for a man?
 - b) Solomon did not comprehend fully this thought
2. The frailty of life
3. An uncertain future

The challenge to pursue the good things of life

1. Pursue the knowledge of God

"Let us know, let us pursue the knowledge of the Lord. His going forth is established as the morning; He will come to us like the rain, like the latter and former rain to the earth."

Hosea 6:3

- a) The prophet Hosea challenged the people of Israel to return and seek the Lord
- b) One thing to seek is to pursue the knowledge of God
- c) Problem when there is no knowledge Hosea 4:1,6

2. Pursue righteousness

"Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart." 2 Tim 2:22

- a) A vessel of honour 2 Tim 2:21
Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.
- b) Flee youthful lust
- c) Pursue...dioko
- d) The good things to pursue

Lessons to be learned

1. Understand the danger of being proud and arrogant in our pursuits of worldly things

- a) Not understanding that we are but man
- b) We end up contending with God
- c) Our pursuits end in vanity

2. The challenge to pursue the right and good things

- a) Pursue the knowledge of God
- b) Pursue a life of righteousness