

Review

1. Be thankful for the things that God has blessed us with in life
2. We can find hope in having these blessings in life
3. Appreciate the portion (inheritance) that we have in life
4. Always be grateful to God, who is the source of all things in life

Perspective of work

“Whatever your hand finds to do, do *it* with your might; for *there is* no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going.” Eccl 9:10

1. Appreciating work
2. Manner in which we do our work
3. For when we die, everything ceases
4. Paul's perspective of work/all that we do
 - a) A far more spiritual perspective

b) Doing things as to the Lord

Col 3:23,24

Time and chance

“I returned and saw under the sun that—The race *is* not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to men of understanding, nor favour to men of skill; But time and chance happen to them all.” Eccl 9:11

1. There are many uncertain things in life
 - a) Solomon made observations of the uncertainties of life
 - b) Examples highlighted
 - i) A race is not always won by the fastest
 - ii) A victory in battle is not always won by the strongest
 - iii) Bread is not always given to those who are wise
 - iv) Riches are not always given to men of understanding
 - v) Favour is not always given to men of skill

2. Time and chance

a) Life has to do with time and chance

b) Makes life uncertain

3. A far more spiritual perspective... faith in God

a) Faith in the sovereignty of God

b) God looking down from heaven Ps 33:13

c) God does things everywhere as He pleases Ps 135:5,6

The evil time

“For man also does not know his time: like fish taken in a cruel net, like birds caught in a snare, so the sons of men *are* snared in an evil time, when it falls suddenly upon them.” Eccl 9:12

1. Facing an evil time

2. Unexpected

3. A far more spiritual perspective...prayer

a) Turning to God in times of evil...of troubles

"This poor man cried out, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles." Ps 34:6

b) Trust and assurance in the Lord's sovereignty Ps 34:15,16

Lessons learned

1. To appreciate the work entrusted to us and do it heartily as unto the Lord

2. To look at life not just as a matter of time and chance, but to trust in God's sovereign hands

3. To face the evil times of trouble with faith in God through prayer