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A reconnaissance of Ecclesiastes

Lesson 14: Christ, Our Wisdom for Living

http://www.clearcreekchapel.org/Ministries/Education_ABE.htm

Facts to face about God

God meets us in this book as:

- Creator
 - We cannot iron out the crooked shape of the world (Ecc. 7:13).
 - We cannot blame the Creator for our sin (Ecc. 7:29).
- Sovereign
 - God has prescribed the frustrations we find in life (Ecc. 1:13,14).
 - Nothing whatever is ours to command or to count on (Ecc. 6:1-6).
- Unsearchable Wisdom
 - The total pattern of God's wisdom in the whole of creation cannot be grasped (Ecc. 3:11).
 - We cannot extrapolate from the present (Ecc. 7:14).
 - The present, like the future, belongs to God (Ecc. 9:1).

Facts to face from experience

Solomon's search for the rewards and satisfaction of experience is through:

- Wisdom (Ecc. 1:18)
- Madness and Folly (Ecc. 1:17, 2:3)

Satisfaction of experience does not last due to:



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- Death (Ecc. 2:16)
- Evil (Ecc. 3:16, 4:1)
- Time and chance (Ecc. 9:11,12)

The function of Ecclesiastes

Solomon wants his audience:

- To face the inference that, since everything is dying:
 - Nothing has meaning
 - Nothing matters under the sun
- To hear the good news that:
 - God is in control
 - God is to be feared
 - Everything matters
 - God will judge every deed

Wisdom and Ecclesiastes

Solomon shows us that:

- Secular, rational wisdom cannot answer life's problems or give life meaning
- Israelite wisdom is insufficient to explain life's complexity
- God determines every event
- Man is unable to discern the works of God

Wisdom's danger is in:

- Placing Israel's salvation history to the background
- Attempting to construct a comprehensive worldview without reference to God's revealing acts
- Concentrating on the fact of God as Creator