

## DAILY BIBLE STUDIES

### *"Wisdom To Live By In 2010"*

**DECEMBER 27 – JANUARY 2, 2009**

#### ***Ecclesiastes 6***

**THE LORD'S DAY** –This past week we have officially celebrated Christmas Day and now this week we approach “New Years Day”. Thursday will actually be the last day of the year 2009 and all the opportunity to live and do things in 2009 will forever be past. We turn this week to a portion of Sacred Scripture which contains much needed wisdom for God’s people helping us to see how to live wise and not wastefully. This particular passage is written by the wisest man apart from Jesus Christ who has ever lived, King Solomon. God gave Solomon his great wisdom and as we study this passage of God’s Holy Word may we also find some wisdom and applications for our lives for this upcoming year of 2010. Read **Ecclesiastes 6**.

*The Word Applied & A Suggestion for Prayer: Ask God to teach you from His Word this week and throughout the upcoming year.*

**MONDAY** –The title of this week’s study is, “Wisdom to Live by in 2010”. Sadly many people live apart from God’s wisdom and in their folly “waste their lives” so to speak. We should have lives marked by knowing, pursuing, and glorifying God. In **verses 1-2**, Solomon lays out a problem that he finds is “*common among men*”. It could be summed up in the words “having and not using”. We read in these verses it is “*God*” who has given men “*riches, wealth, and honor*”. All we have (both “bad” and “good”) comes from God’s hand. This man in our passage “*lacks nothing for himself*” yet it is this very same Sovereign God who “*does not give him power to eat of it*”. Read this passage which shows that it is a Sovereign God who gives and takes from both the wicked and the righteous. **Job 21:7-26**.

*The Word Applied & A Suggestion for Prayer: Ask God to help you understand His mighty Sovereignty and control of ALL things. Praise Him for being so gracious!*

**TUESDAY** –Solomon continues in **verses 3-6** with an example of the tragedy of living a life focused on the wrong things. He says a man could live “*many years*” (a thousand years twice), and have a “*hundred*” children **BUT** if “*his soul is not satisfied with goodness...a stillborn child is better off than he*”. The great tragedy of many people which leads to a wasted life is that they are not content with God’s great provision. Even those who think they are “poor” have great blessing from a gracious God. Notice it is the “*soul*” of man that is discontent and not satisfied and his sinful

attitude views God as depriving or unjust. God is a gracious God who has bestowed “goodness” to men. Read of the happiness found with those who trust in God from **Psalm 34**.

*The Word Applied & A Suggestion for Prayer: Ask the Lord to help you be thankful to Him for His provision and to learn to trust Him more each and every day.*

**WEDNESDAY** –**Verse 7** sums up the point I want to focus on with this message about wasting your life. The text teaches us that working only for what will be consumed (“*All the labor of man is for his mouth...*”) will leave a person with a lack of satisfaction in their soul and ultimately a wasted life if they continue in this (“*...and yet his soul is not satisfied*”). All the earthly self-centered effort that men put forth to make their lives “better” will never fill the emptiness in their soul. Only knowing and feeding on Jesus Christ and walking in the Spirit will bring lasting satisfaction. This is true for both the rich, poor, those in between, as well as the saved and unsaved. Read **Jeremiah 9:23-24, Matthew 16:24-26**.

*The Word Applied & A Suggestion for Prayer: Ask God to help you find your satisfaction in Him.*

**THURSDAY** –**Verses 8** expounds on the fact that there is no advantage to being a “wise” man or a rich man if your life is consumed with discontentment and unsatisfied desires. Even a “poor” man who lives effectively in this world can avoid the discontentment and emptiness that comes from a selfish, self seeking, self gratifying life and lifestyle. Jesus gave a very strong illustration of the wasted life in a parable He gave in **Luke 12:13-21**. Read the story of this horrific wasted life, and see God’s final summation in **verse 21** where He says, “*So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.*”

*The Word Applied & A Suggestion for Prayer: Ask God to help you become a more contented Christian this year and to find a healthy discontent over your relationship and closeness in your walk with Christ.*

**FRIDAY** –As I said in yesterday’s prayer suggestion, we **need** to be discontented with our walk with Christ when it is not what it needs to be. Solomon, in **verse 9** explains that in living our lives it is better to be content with what we have (“*the sight of the eyes*”) than to be ever covetous and discontented with “*the wandering of desire*”, or what we don’t have. Greedy grasping for more without contentment in God’s gracious provision will never allow us to rest our souls in Him and fix our desires on Him as we should. This is truly the epitome of the wasted life and is “*vanity and grasping for the wind*”. Read **1 Timothy 6:6-21**.

*The Word Applied & A Suggestion for Prayer: Pray that God will help you to fully rest in Him and His provision while finding your contentment solely in Him.*

**SATURDAY** –Solomon reflects on the Sovereign God and how He is the controller of the present and future in **verses 10-12**. We read that “*Whatever one is, He has been named already*”. God knows and controls the circumstances and situations we are in and we must remember that we are known to Him and are mere men (**Psalm 9:20**). There is no “*contending*” with God that will change the facts, and it is God’s Sovereign wisdom that knows “*what is good for man all the days of his vain life*”. And as the old poem says, “Only one life will soon be past, only what’s done for Christ will last”. I pray this will be our understanding and our desire as we approach a new year and the first day of the rest of our lives. What have you done this past year that was for God’s Kingdom and that will last forever? Read **Psalm 39:6-7, Matthew 6:19-21**.

*The Word Applied & A Suggestion for Prayer: Take the time to go before God and confess any areas of life where you have “laid up treasure” that is only temporary and ask Him to help you “lay up treasure” in heaven this year. Treasure that is forever and will never be diminished.*