

Ecclesiastes 6:1-12

Prosperity is not always or necessarily good

Evaluating outward fortunes—6:1-7:15

Explain and Apply God's Plan—6:1-8:15

- 1) Don't assume those who "have it made" are satisfied—6:1-6
    - a) God-given wealth without God-given enablement to enjoy it—6:1-2 (cf. 5:18-19)
      - i) <sup>1</sup> *There is an evil that I have seen under the sun, and it weighs heavily on people: <sup>2</sup> a man to whom God gives riches and wealth and honor (cf. 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 1:11-12) so that he lacks nothing for himself of all that he desires, yet God does not enable him to enjoy them, but a stranger enjoys them. This is illusory and a grievous evil.*
    - b) Hyperbole/exaggerations—6:3-6
      - i) Regarding offspring—6:3-5 <sup>3</sup> *If a man fathers a hundred children (cf. Judges 8:30; 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 10:1; 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 11:21) and lives many years, so that the days of his years are many, but his soul is not satisfied with good things, and he also has no burial, I say, "A stillborn child (cf. Job 3:16) is better off than he," <sup>4</sup> for it came into futility and departs into darkness, and its name is shrouded in darkness. <sup>5</sup> Moreover it has not seen the sun or known anything; yet it finds more rest than he.*
      - ii) Regarding long life—<sup>6</sup> *Even though he lives a thousand years twice and has not seen good—are not all going to one place?*
  - 2) Recognize the elusiveness of satisfaction—6:7-9
    - a) A proverb on the relentless pursuit of gratification—6:7 <sup>7</sup> *All the toil of a man is for his mouth, yet his soul is not satisfied.*
    - b) A pair of proverbial questions—6:8
      - i) <sup>8</sup> *For what advantage does the wise man have over the fool?*
      - ii) *What does the poor man have, knowing how to walk before the living?*
    - c) A proverb on contentment—6:9a <sup>9</sup> *What the eyes see is better than the wandering of the soul.*
    - d) The principle—6:9b *This also is illusory and striving after wind.*
  - 3) Remember God-designed inability of people—6:10-12 (note the 4 uses of "man" [adam])
    - a) God's sovereign design—<sup>10</sup> *Whatever has come to be has already been named (by God), and it is known what man is; and he is not able to contend with the one (God?) who is more powerful than he is.*
      - i) Why? <sup>11</sup> *For the more words, the more futility.*
    - b) A series of questions on man's inability apart from God—6:11b-12
      - i) To notice advantages in life—*What is the advantage to a man?*
      - ii) To discern genuine good—<sup>12</sup> *For who knows what is good for a man while he lives the few days of his illusory life, which he passed like a shadow?*
      - iii) To know the future—*Who can tell a man what will be after him under the sun?*
- ❖ "Satisfaction come only through obedience to His will and in accepting with thanksgiving and enjoy all things He grants to us." (Barrick, 110)