

CHAPTER 8:10-9:10

Lesson 10

KEY VERSE(S)—

OUTLINE—

- I. **OBSERVATION:** One Event Happens to All (8:10-9:6)
 - A. Life is Unfair (8:10-14)
 - B. Yet Life is Still in God's Hands (8:15-9:1)
 - C. Death Happens to All (9:2-6)
- II. **INSTRUCTION:** Positive Ways to Respond to this Truth (9:7-10)

KEY WORDS (Themes)—

SUMMARY—

Even though there is inequity in death because it strikes everyone alike, there is also an unfairness in *life* that is certain, and that death finally evens up. The sinner may not immediately reap what he has sown, but he eventually does (8:10-13). "It should not be forgotten, however, that the earth is a place for sowing and eternity is a place for reaping." (Dee Bowman).

The best way to deal with this injustice is to enjoy life's simple pleasures and not fret over the other (8:14-15). God's work and plans will be accomplished whether we ever understand them or not (8:16-17). Everything is in the hands of God (9:1).

Man's moral condition does not alter some things—God's rain falls on the just and the unjust (9:2) and death strikes down everyone (9:3). Even for the wicked there remains hope as long as they are living (9:4), but when they die, they are cut off from everything they built their life upon—all that which is "*under the sun*" (9:5-6). The Preacher concludes this section by instructing us on some positive things to do in order that "*it will be well with those who fear God*" (9:7-10; cf. 8:12).

QUESTIONS—

- 1) *Summarize the passage in one sentence.*
- 2) *Not only is it unfair that wickedness is not immediately punished, but how does the wicked reason in response to that fact (8:11)? What will eventually happen anyway (8:12-13)?*
- 3) *What is true about the work of God (8:17)? What should be our response to His work then?*
- 4) *Death comes to all men. How can that be both fair and unfair (9:2-3)?*
- 5) *Does the Preacher tell us that there is no existence beyond this life (9:4-6)? From what does he say death removes us?*

6) What are some of the good things we can enjoy in the midst of such unfairness (9:7-10)?

ASSIGNMENT—

Find the number of times the phrase “under the sun” is found in this passage.

- Define what it means.
- What are some of the things he says in this passage about “life under the sun”?
- Find the number of times “God” is found in this passage.

What are the contrasts between our works “under the sun” and those works that are “in the hand of God”? Record some of your observations in the chart below.

“Under The Sun”	“In The Hand Of God”

READING SCHEDULE—

Read this passage every day before the upcoming class (check the box after each day that you read the passage)

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday