

CHAPTER 9:11-10:4

KEY VERSE(S)—

OUTLINE—

- I. **OBSERVATION:** Wisdom is Best Even if it is Uncertain (9:11-18)
 - A. Time and Chance Happen to All (9:11-12)
 - B. Wisdom is Superior to Strength (9:13-18)
- II. **INSTRUCTION:** Wisdom is Superior to Folly (10:1-4)

KEY WORDS (Themes)—

SUMMARY—

The Preacher assures us that wisdom is far superior and more desirable, even though time and chance happen to all (9:11-12), and wisdom often goes unrecognized (9:13-18). The fact that life is uncertain, is one of the few certainties of life—Ironic isn't it? Although popularity may be more attractive, wisdom is more important.

Even though man is taught about such things, he still rushes headlong into snares and traps (9:12). The Preacher tells a parable to illustrate the value of wisdom—how it is even superior to strength (9:13-18). Wisdom does much good, but one sinner can destroy much good (9:18). He can cause something beautiful to become ugly and smelly (10:1).

A wise man uses his wisdom as his strength—the seat of his power (10:2). On the other hand, the fool is like the left hand for most people—awkward, sluggish, and slow to move (10:2-3). Even the power of one's wisdom can prove itself to be greater than the strength of a ruler—because it can bring him under control (10:4).

QUESTIONS—

- 1) *Summarize this passage in one sentence.*
- 2) *With life being so uncertain, where should we place our trust and confidence (9:11)?*
- 3) *How should we prepare for the unavoidable uncertainty of death (9:12)?*
- 4) *What is so tragic about this story of the wise man?*
 - *verse 16b—*
 - *verse 16c—*
 - *verse 17—*
 - *verse 18—*
- 5) *List some Bible examples where one wise man made a great impact, or where one foolish man brought about great destruction.*

6) *How can such a small thing spoil such a beautiful thing (9:18; 10:1; cf. James 3:5; 1 Corinthians 5:6)?*

7) *How does the fool announce his folly (10:3; Proverbs 13:16; 18:2)?*

ASSIGNMENT—

Wisdom has been a consistent theme from chapter 7 through this section of chapter 10. Either by using a concordance, or by reading through the book of Ecclesiastes again, identify how many times the words “*wise*” and “*wisdom*” are used.

- *What characteristics are stated about wisdom?*
- *What is the benefit of having wisdom?*
- *What limitations does wisdom have? (What is it not able to do?)*

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