

Sermon Reflections

What's the Good Life? (Ecclesiastes 6:10 - 7:14)

Summary: Stop trying to figure out what is good for your life on your own. Instead, submit yourself to God's wisdom for what is good in life.

What's the Good Life?

1. The Good Life Evades Our Inquiries (Ecclesiastes 6:10-12)

- Solomon explains that man is but a lowly creature (v. 10) and that life passes like a shadow (v. 12). What are some life circumstances that frequently remind us that we are mere creatures? Do you live each day as if your life is like a shadow? How can you better live in light of eternity since our earthly days are but a vapor?
- Through his two rhetorical questions, Solomon asserts that man is finite and only God knows what is good for man. In light of the gospel, what have we learned is ultimately good for man? In light of the good news of Christ, how should we live out the "few days of [our] vain life"? Apart from Christ, is anything *good* for man?

2. The Good Life Runs Counter to Our Assumptions (Ecclesiastes 7:1-12)

- Why does Solomon indicate that things like the "day of death," "house of mourning," and "sorrow" are better than the "day of birth," "house of feasting," and "laughter," respectively? In what way are these things better? What are some other ways in which you can remind yourself and others to live and be preparing now for the moment when we meet death?

3. The Good Life Submits to God's Work in Our Lives (Ecclesiastes 7:13-14)

- Solomon says in both v. 13 and v. 14 that we are to "consider" something. What are we ultimately to consider? How often do you stop to think and consider this? What are some ways you can remind yourself and others to more often consider this?
- How is it that a world that God created and called "good" can be crooked, as Solomon remarks in v. 13? Does Solomon seem confident in the sovereignty of God over all of creation, even the parts that are crooked?
- Solomon says to be joyful in the day of prosperity (14). What are some earthly things that we can be joyful about (see Eccles. 2:24, 3:13, 5:19, etc.)? How can you ensure that your pursuit of joy in these earthly things does not replace your pursuit of joy that can only be found in Christ?
- What is the reason that Solomon gives for why God has made both the day of prosperity and the day of adversity (see the "so that")? What do believers know is true about life circumstances for those who love God (see Romans 8)?