

Some Wise Instructions

(Ecclesiastes 9:10)

Introduction:

1. In this passage Solomon mentioned the place where we are all headed: *"the grave."*
2. The grave is not a pleasant subject by any means, but we understand the reality of it (see vs.5a; Ecclesiastes 3:2; Hebrews 9:27).
3. Solomon mentioned some additional information that we need to consider.
4. In the grave certain things will not be found, including:
 - a. *"work"*
 - b. *"device"* [planning]
 - c. *"knowledge"*
 - d. *"wisdom."*
5. Because none of these things exist in the grave, we are given this wise word of instruction: *"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might."*
6. In the grave it will be too late to give attention to these things; therefore we must pursue them while we can.
7. By pursuing these things with our might we can be prepared when our time comes to go to the grave.

Discussion:

I. *"KNOWLEDGE" AND "WISDOM"*

- A. By contrasting a wise man and a foolish man we can see how important it is to pursue knowledge and wisdom.
 1. (Proverbs 1:2-5a) A wise man seeks after knowledge and wisdom.
 2. (Proverbs 1:7b) A foolish man despises wisdom and instruction.
 3. Which man will please the Lord?
- B. Pursuing knowledge and wisdom requires diligent study, which is not easy; however, this is something that the Lord wants us to do while we can.
- C. When we pursue knowledge and wisdom we are being like Christ (Luke 2:52).
- D. Since *"knowledge"* and *"wisdom"* do not exist in the grave we must follow Solomon's wise instruction (Ecclesiastes 9:10a).

II. *"WORK"*

- A. From the beginning God has instructed man to work (Genesis 2:15; 3:19).
- B. The New Testament teaches Christians to be good workers.
 1. Ephesians 6:5-8
 2. Colossians 3:22-25

- C. Working and being good workers require a lot of effort, but the Lord wants us to pursue these matters while we can.
- D. Since there is no *"work"* in the grave we must follow Solomon's wise instruction (Ecclesiastes 9:10a).

III. *"DEVICE"*

- A. Device: planning, setting of goals
- B. An event that occurred during the Lord's ministry teaches us to give careful attention to our plans and goals (Matthew 19:16-22).
 - 1. This man had a worthy goal, but he was not willing to pay the price to achieve it.
 - 2. Consequently, he did not reach his goal.
- C. The Lord wants us to pursue spiritual goals and plans and pay the price to achieve them while we can (Matthew 6:33).
- D. Since there is no *"device"* in the grave we must follow Solomon's wise instruction (Ecclesiastes 9:10a).

Conclusion:

- 1. By following Solomon's instructions we can be prepared for the grave.
- 2. We can have the confidence expressed by Paul in 2 Timothy 4:6-8.
- 3. The grave is not the end of our existence -- it is the end of our physical existence.
- 4. We will face the Lord in judgment when He returns (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).