

Text: Ecclesiastes 7:1-29

Monroe Bible Church

Topics: Adversity, Prosperity, Righteousness, Wisdom

July 21, 2019

Series: Ecclesiastes: Words to the Wise

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When Retribution Has Gone Awry

I. The Problem of Prosperity & Adversity (1-14)

The sovereignty of God overrules expectations for prosperity and adversity.

II. The Pursuit of Righteousness and Wisdom (15-29)

Neither wisdom nor righteousness can deliver one from the fates of folly.

The fear of God and pleasing of God are crucial to maintain!

Application Questions - These questions are provided for your further study and application of the subject of today's message. Thoughtfully writing out answers to these questions will help drive home the point. They are designed to be discussed in your home, with other believers, and in a Life Group, for even more benefit.

1. No fear of God is a characteristic of the ungodly (Ps. 36:1; Rom. 3:18). In 1 Peter 2:17 readers are told to "fear God." Fearing God is given a sobering context in Revelation 14:7. How would you describe a life lived in fear of God?

What are some of the examples of fear of God in your life?

2. Jesus told a crowd that He always did what was pleasing to the Father (John 8:29). Paul urged the churches in Colossae (Col. 1:10) and Thessalonica (1 Thess. 4:1), to strive to please God. He said pleasing God was his goal (2 Cor. 5:9). What does it look like to be pleasing to God?

Is pleasing God a goal in your life? How high a goal?

3. Read 1 John 3:21-22. What three things can we do to help us maintain confidence before God and receive answers to prayers?

Is there something you should give a little more attention to in one of these areas? Explain.

4. According to Hebrews 11:6, what is essential to pleasing God?

5. Read the closing benediction of Hebrews in 13:20-21. What is the prayer-wish of the author for the recipients? What is the purpose and the power behind it?

Can you see examples of this happening in your life?

6. What is the main application of this study, and/or the sermon and its passages, for you?