
All go to one place. All are from the dust, and to dust all return. Who knows whether the spirit of man goes upward and the spirit of the beast goes down into the earth? (Ecclesiastes 4:20-21)

I. Where Can Justice be Found?

- a. Solomon looks to the courts where justice and righteousness should be, instead he sees wickedness. Courts have been established to make things right, yet there is injustice.
 1. The innocent are found guilty and the guilty are acquitted.
 2. The poor and the rich are not always treated equally under the law.
 3. Our system is often less about justice and more about having the right lawyer and money.
- b. Some seek justice through politics and others through social activism, but what really changes?
- c. We long for justice. We have been created in the image of God and are being transformed in the likeness of Christ, therefore act like it. (Psalm 94:13-15) When will things be made right?
- d. God is making and will make things right, the problem lies in that we do not always see Him acting. Why is faith a major element of enjoying and finding satisfaction in life of uncertainties?
- e. Justice and righteousness are still plagued by wickedness, but God comforts the oppressed and holds the oppressors accountable. (Psalm 73 & 54)
- f. We are called to trust in the Lord's timing, as declared in Amos 5:4, *But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.*
- g. *And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him.* (Heb 11:6)

II. From Dust To Dust

- a. Humanity was intended to eat from the tree of life and live forever, but we die because of sin.
- b. Solomon points out that man and beasts have two primary things in common:
 1. They both die and their bodies return to dust. (Gen 2:17; 3:19)
- c. Whenever people leave God out of their lives, they respond to life situations like animals. (Psa 32:8-9; 2 Peter 2:19-20) The 20th century saw Hitler and Stalin, now there is ISIS.
- d. We either add to the chaos in this world or bring the peace of Jesus. Which category do you fall under? Before you answer read Romans 12:17-19.

III. With Christ You Can Be Sure in an Uncertain World

- a. Solomon addressed the issue that no one knows exactly what lies beyond death.
- b. Since we do not know what happens beyond this life, we have to rely on the eternal God who put eternity in our hearts. Do you know, by faith, where you will live in eternity?
- c. Solomon calls us to accept life, enjoy it a day at a time. The apostle Paul said this, *I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.* (Phil 4:11)
- d. For 'In him we live and move and have our being.'" (Acts 17:28)
- e. How does knowing Christ make a difference in your attitude toward death and dying?

IV. Thoughts and Considerations for Action (Reflections on Seeking Justice)

- a. Activism will not always perpetuate desired change.
- b. Faith learns to live with the inconsistencies that life brings. The Christian lives by promises and not by explanations.
- c. Seek the Lord for understanding when things are not right *with* you or *around* you.
- d. Our hope is in God. This is not a pipe dream, but a living reality for those who are *in* Christ.