



Women Pursuing Christ Through His Word

2021 Pursue Summer Study

“The Truth Is...”

Principles of Truth From the Life of Solomon

A Study in Ecclesiastes

Week 5

The main lesson that Solomon has learned throughout his life is that attempts to find purpose and meaning in life, or to make sense of life “under the sun” is vanity or useless. Life will simply confuse and frustrate if lived outside of the reality that God has designed it and has a purpose for man individually and corporately. Solomon eventually learned that the way to fully embrace this is to simply live life in appreciation of the good things God has given and apply His wisdom to each circumstance to the best of our ability. But in order for wisdom to be beneficial, it must be motivated and directed by justice and righteousness. Solomon is the wisest man in the kingdom because he knew that if he was to lead his people well, he must

apply the principles of godly leadership. He knew he didn’t possess that ability, so he asked God to give it to him. God did give Solomon that kind of wisdom. It was wisdom to rule the people in the way that would benefit them the most (1 Kings 3:11-12). If he and his people would be willing to trust God and apply His laws and directions for life, their kingdom would prosper. But if they refused to comply to His truths and attempt to live life their own way, they would self-destruct. Unfortunately, even Solomon fell prey to his own flesh. Power, affluence, the ignorance of youth, and access to all human delights can distract even the wisest man from being fully committed to obeying God (1 Kings 3:3).

Principle #5: The Truth Is... when justice and righteousness, which are God’s foundations for quality living, are no longer deemed important and so are not practiced, oppression and injustice plague mankind.

Key Words:

Oppression-*asuqizm*- to weigh a person down with physical or mental distress; tyranny.

Justice-*misphat* - a noun that is a legal decision given by God to be followed by His people; to establish the heavenly norm or pattern on earth. It comes from the root word *shaphat* which is translated “to judge or govern.” *Shaphat* is used to describe the prosperity brought by the king’s leadership. To apply justice means to save from oppression, to liberate, and to rescue.” *Mishpat* does more than distinguish right from wrong—it takes revolutionary action to stop injustice and restore the damage done by it. Whenever *mishpat* requires punishment, the purpose is to set things right again. (Jessica Nicholas *God Loves Justice*)

Righteousness-Sadeq - a right relationship to an ethical or legal standard. It is most often connected to justice. The heart of sadaq is relationships—our relationship with God and with others. It is often translated as “equity,” “honesty,” “deliverance,” “integrity,” and “victory.”

Wickedness-resa - injustice or unrighteousness. It embodies that character which is opposite of the character of God. It is presented as the bad and evil deeds done by humanity which become the object of God’s judgment.

QUESTIONS:

1. *Read Ecclesiastes 4:1-3. What did Solomon observe regarding the oppressed? Using the definition of oppression above, what are some of the things people do to each that would be acts of oppression?*

2. *What does he then conclude due to that? Vs. 2-3 Why do you think his conclusion is so extreme?*

3. *What instructions did God give the Israelites when He brought them out of Egypt? Deuteronomy 1:15-17; 16:18-20 According to the definition of justice above, how was justice to be defined?*

4. *What were some specifics He gave about what justice should look like and where it should be applied? Exodus 23:1-3; Leviticus 19:9-16; Deuteronomy 24:10-25:3. Why is justice and righteousness difficult to maintain?*

5. *Why are they to establish that kind of justice? Deuteronomy 10:17-22; 2 Chronicles 19:5-7; Psalm 33:5; 37:28; 89:14-15*
6. *Read Isaiah 1:10-17 and Jeremiah 21:9-22:5. Because the Israelites disobeyed God, He sent them into captivity after the time of Solomon. What did Isaiah and Jeremiah declare to the leadership of Israel as to what they needed to do to escape that judgment, and what would happen if they didn't heed God's warning?*
7. *As king, Solomon would have been responsible to rule with justice and righteousness. He believed that applying the principle of righteous and justice should be a primary goal in our lives. Proverbs 1:1-3; 2:6-9; 21:2-3 He seems to be very disturbed that life seems to produce the opposite of that. What does he see as the problem in establishing justice and righteousness? Ecclesiastes 3:16-18; 5:8; 8:9. How does this tie to Solomon's exhortation to "fear the Lord"?*
8. *How could you apply principle #5 to your daily life?*

Prayer requests:

Group time notes:
