

Ecclesiastes 10:1-20 Discussion Questions

Outline of Pastor Mike's Sermon

Intro

- The Confusing nature of idioms
 - Definition of an idiom
 - *An idiom is an expression that takes on a figurative meaning when certain words are combined, which is different from the literal definition of the individual words.*
 - Examples
 - *A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush*
 - *You can't have your cake and eat it too*
- Table of Contents
 - The pervasiveness of foolishness (9.18-10.4)
 - Foolishness in action (v.5-15)
 - Avoiding the dangers of foolishness (v.16-20)

The Pervasiveness of foolishness (9.18-10.4)

- Previously in Ecclesiastes, the Preacher notes that the world often does not produce the results we expect. He ends his thoughts in v.18 with a warning about the power of sin.
 - Folly can undue the power of what is good
 - Folly is easily identifiable

Foolishness in action (v.5-15)

- Folly upends the social order
- Folly leads to sinful action and uncertainty in the course of normal life
- Folly taints effort and skill
- Folly produces destruction, madness and futility

Avoiding the dangers of foolishness (v.16-20)

- The Preacher contrasts the welfare of those who associate with and experience folly against those who pursue nobility and wealth

Discussion Questions

Read Ecclesiastes 10:1-20

1. In this text the Preacher reflects on the potency and the nature of foolishness. What safeguards or solutions does he offer when (vv. 16-20)?

a. What is the problem with his advice?

2. According to 2 Cor 5:21, how did Jesus deal with our foolishness and its consequences?

a. This passage teaches the doctrine of double imputation, meaning that not only was our sin imputed to Jesus, but his righteousness is given to us. In other words, not only is our guilt and shame taken away by Jesus' life, but we get credit for Jesus' perfect moral innocence and enjoy his favor with the Father. And this can never be taken away. How does this doctrine affect you? How does knowing this make a difference in your life? Or what difference should it make?

b. It is clear that this truth powerfully transforms your view of things and should lead to a new kind of life. The problem for many of us is not so much that we don't intellectually know this, but that we struggle to truly know and believe it deeply enough so that we live it out. How can we grow in our faith? How do we get these truths to go from our head to our hearts (the innermost part of who we are)?

3. Often, instead of being transformed by Jesus' work and walking in his righteousness, we attempt to make ourselves righteous by our own efforts. We may try to change our own hearts through self-will, or by joining a group of people that we want to be like, or by achieving a certain level of success. All of these things can make us look or feel more righteous. But while all of these are helpful methods for managing and altering behavior, they don't transform the heart.

a. What's the difference between pursuing righteousness on your own, and pursuing Jesus and allowing him to cover you with his righteousness and produce his righteousness within you?

b. Which of these methods of self-transformation (will power, new associations, achievement) are you most tempted resort to when dealing with your own sin and foolishness?

c. What are some examples of times when the Lord transformed you as you were pursuing him? How did it happen? What was it like?

d. How can we make sure that we continue to operate out of faith in Christ's righteousness versus relying on a righteousness of our own?