

# **WHAT TO REMEMBER WHEN WICKEDNESS TRIUMPHS**

## ***Ecclesiastes 3:16-22***

6/14/15

### **OUTLINE OF ECCLESIASTES:**

**A. The Prologue: Vanity Declared (1:1-11)**

**B. The Monologue: Vanity Described (1:12-12:8)**

- ❖ *The Reality of the Vanity of Life (1:12-2:26)*
- ❖ *The Recognition of the Sovereignty of God (3:1-15)*
- ❖ *The Reality of the Vanity of Life (3:16-4:16)*

**MAIN IDEA:** Viewing injustice and death can lead us to see the vanity of life.

## **I. THE VANITY OF LIFE: *WHY DOES INJUSTICE TRIUMPH?* (Eccl. 3:16-18)**

**A. The confusion (3:16; cp. 4:1; 5:8; 8:9; Psa. 73:1-2; Jer. 12:1-2; Hab. 1:2-4):**  
*injustice triumphs!*

- Where *judgment* should be, *wickedness* is there (3:16a).
- Where *righteousness* should be, *iniquity* is there (3:16b).

**B. The conclusion (3:17):** *judgment will come!*

- God's future *judgment* (3:17a; cp. Rom. 12:17-19; Heb. 10:29-31)
- God's appointed *time* (3:17b)
  - *God's ways are not always man's ways.*
  - *God's time is not always man's time.*
- God's designed *purpose* (3:18)

## **II. THE VANITY OF LIFE: *WHY DOES LIFE END AS IT DOES?* (Eccl. 3:19-22)**

**A. The confusion (3:19-21; cp. Psa. 49:10-12):** *Men and animals die!*

- How men and animals are *similar* (3:19-20)
  - *In how life is conducted (3:19a)*
  - *In how life is concluded (3:19b)*
  - *In how the body is composed (3:20a; cp. Gen. 2:7, 19)*
  - *In how the body is corrupted (3:20b; cp. Gen. 3:19; Job 34:15; Psa. 104:24-29; 146:3-4)*
- How men and animals are *different* (3:21)
  - *The spirit of man going up (3:21a; cp. 12:7)*
  - *The spirit of the animal going down to the earth (3:21b)*

**B. The conclusion (3:22):** *enjoy life!*

- *Enjoy life now (3:22a).*
- Don't worry about *tomorrow*--you don't know what it holds (3:22b; cp. 6:12; 7:14; 9:3; Prov. 27:1; Jas. 4:14).

- ❖ *Looking at life on the surface can bring great discouragement.*
- ❖ *Realizing that injustice will someday end is a great encouragement.*
- ❖ *Realizing that death does not end all is our great hope.*
- ❖ *Enjoying life now in a relationship with the Lord is our great privilege.*