

Ecclesiastes
Living in Light of the End
How To Live In Light Of What You Don't Know
Ecclesiastes 11:1-6

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / Aug. 13, 2023

Ecclesiastes 11:1-6 “Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days. ² Give a portion to seven, or even to eight, for you know not what disaster may happen on earth. ³ If the clouds are full of rain, they empty themselves on the earth, and if a tree falls to the south or to the north, in the place where the tree falls, there it will lie. ⁴ He who observes the wind will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap. ⁵ As you do not know the way the spirit comes to the bones in the womb of a woman with child, so you do not know the work of God who makes everything. ⁶ In the morning sow your seed, and at evening withhold not your hand, for you do not know which will prosper, this or that, or whether both alike will be good.”

Reader: This is the Word of The Lord.

Response: ***Thanks Be To God!***

I. You need to be truly content with just not knowing!

3 Things We Just Don't Know

A. You don't know what the future holds.

Ecclesiastes 11:2 “...for you know not what disaster may happen on earth.”

Ecclesiastes 9:1 “But all this I laid to heart, examining it all, how the righteous and the wise and their deeds are in the hand of God. Whether it is love or hate, man does not know; both are before him.”

B. You don't know how to do what only God can do.

Ecclesiastes 11:5 “As you do not know the way the spirit comes to the bones in the womb of a woman with child, so you do not know the work of God who makes everything.”

Job 38:12,19-20,35 “Have you commanded the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place... ¹⁹ Where is the way to the dwelling of light, and where is the place of darkness, ²⁰ that you may take it to its territory and that you may discern the paths to its home?... ³⁵ Can you send forth lightnings, that they may go and say to you, ‘Here we are?’”

C. You don't know how to guarantee success and avoid failure.

Ecclesiastes 11:6 “In the morning sow your seed, and at evening withhold not your hand, for you do not know which will prosper, this or that, or whether both alike will be good.”

II. Not knowing the future means you should loosen your grip on your life and your stuff!

Ecclesiastes 11:1-2 “Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days. ² Give a portion to seven, or even to eight, for you know not what disaster may happen on earth.”

Luke 12:16-21 “And He told them a parable, saying, ‘The land of a rich man produced plentifully,¹⁷ and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’¹⁸ And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’”²⁰ But God said to him, “Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?”²¹ So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

III. You need to know that success or failure won't matter if you fail to live in the first place!

Ecclesiastes 11:6 “In the morning sow your seed, and at evening withhold not your hand, for you do not know which will prosper, this or that, or whether both alike will be good.”

Ecclesiastes 11:3-4 “If the clouds are full of rain, they empty themselves on the earth, and if a tree falls to the south or to the north, in the place where the tree falls, there it will lie.⁴ He who observes the wind will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap.”

2 Corinthians 9:6 “The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”

IV. You need to know that the reward for a life lived well is not found where we often assume it is!

Luke 9:24-25 “For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.²⁵ For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?”

Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group Discussion:

1. Do you have a “bucket list?” Why or why not?
2. How do you shelter yourself from the fear of failure by only doing what you see as predictable? How might you change that?
3. Pastor Peter said “The decision to do nothing oftentimes has a greater impact than people realize. Indecision is a decision.” Are there areas in your life where you refuse to do something for one reason or another? Why?
4. Pastor Peter said “God isn't against bucket lists.” Do you agree? How might you do your “bucket list” and not lose sight of God while you do it?