

Hello. /We will begin our 10<sup>th</sup> lecture on the book of Ecclesiastes. /Today's message is from Ecclesiastes 9. /The title of the chapter is "The Hand of God."

/First, everything is in God's hands. /Verse 1. /Second, every person is the same. /Verses 2-3. /Third, a living dog is better than a dead lion. /Verses 4-6.

/Fourth, eat with joy and enjoy life. /Verses 7-9. /Fifth, whatever your hand finds to do, do it with might. /Verse 10. /Sixth, time and chance determine everything. /Verses 11-12. /Seventh, wisdom delivers the city. /Verses 13-18.

/Verse 1. Let us read. /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.

/The Preacher examined everything. /Solomon closely observed things. /He realized that the good and the evil, the wise and the fool are all in the hands of the Lord. /A person does not know if he will be loved /or if he will be hated.

/These are things of the future. /Our lives do not know what will happen in the future. /We must leave our future to God as we keep our faith day by day.

/Also, everything is in God's hands. /Everything is happening according to God's economy. /Therefore, if we trust that everything happens through God, /we will not be tempted. /God makes all things work together for good. Romans 8:28.

/That is why we can rejoice during a time of difficulty. /In Romans 5:2-3, the Apostle Paul says, / "Through him we have also obtained access by faith /into this grace in which we stand, /and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. /Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, /knowing that suffering produces endurance, /and endurance produces character, and character produces hope."

/The Apostle Paul rejoiced in his suffering. /He understood that suffering produces endurance, which eventually produces hope. /Because he knew this, he rejoiced.

/The Apostle Paul rejoiced in the sufferings that were in Christ. /Everything happens within the economy of God.

/We must believe that God makes everything happen. /We must believe that everything is in God's hands. /Then, we will be able to rejoice in any situation.

/Second, every person is the same. /Verses 2-3.

/Verse 2. /It is the same for all, since the same event happens to the righteous and the wicked, to the good and the evil to the clean and the unclean, to him who sacrifices and him who does not sacrifice. As the good one is, so is the sinner, and he who swears is as he who shuns an oath.

/Whatever happens to the good happens to the evil. /Thus concerning the flesh, everyone is the same. /The good and the evil both see disaster. /For example, both the good and the evil are struck by floods. /The good and the evil both experience wars.

/Disease and death happen to both the righteous and the evil. /Pastors also catch the cold and die because of sickness. /Through this message today, we can understand this one thing. /The good and the evil are the same. /However, there is something different between the good and evil.

/The wicked ones do not believe in Jesus, and they enter an eternal hell. /On the other hand, the righteous keep their faith, repent, and are saved. The righteous live according to the will of God and are blessed. /That is the difference between the two.

/Verse 3. /This is an evil in all that is done under the sun, that the same event happens to all. Also, the hearts of the children of man are full of evil, and madness is in their hearts while they live, and after that they go to the dead.

/There is no difference in the things that happen to the righteous and the wicked. /Those who are of this world do evil deeds without hesitating. 8:11. /The hearts of man are full of evil, and madness is in their hearts while they live, and after that they go to the dead.

/People hold anger in their hearts as they live and then they return to the dead. /But it says the same happens to all. /Those who do not believe in Jesus die and descend into eternal hell.

/However, those with faith repent before God when they are troubled. /Here, there is a person who holds madness in his heart. /This refers to someone who does not repent. /After carrying a heart of madness, he returns to the dead.

/The wicked become more evil when they experience evil deeds. /The wicked boldly do evil, and they do not know how to repent. /In this way, the wicked continue their crazy deeds until they fall into a path of destruction. /The wicked live crazily in the world. /They become obsessed with money, pleasure, gambling, and power until they see their downfall.

/Revelation 16:10 says, / “The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, / and its kingdom was plunged into darkness. People gnawed their tongues in anguish, /and cursed the God of heaven for their pain and sores. /They did not repent of their deeds.”

/The people here cursed God as they were being punished. /In this way, God punishes people through natural disasters. /Believers in Jesus, when suffering in punishment, come before God and repent.

/The same event happens to everything. /There are disasters that come upon the wicked. / There are disasters for us believers in Jesus as well.

/The difference is the wicked become more stubborn as they see disaster. /However, the righteous come to realization through times of trouble. /That is why David makes his confession. /David says that he has learned to keep God's word through affliction. /Psalm 119:67

/Believers grow closer to God and encounter God when they experience suffering. /The same disasters happen to the good and the evil. /However, the results are not the same. /The process is different for the two. /Hebrews 12:5-6

/Third, a living dog is better than a dead lion. /Verses 4-6.  
/Verse 4. /But he who is joined with all the living has hope, for a living dog is better than a dead lion.

/The verse says, "But he who is joined with all the living has hope." /When it says "the living," it is talking about having life. /Death is a great misfortune.

/Someone may be a king or hero in this world, but being dead means nothing and has no value. /The living have life, and this very fact is their comfort and hope.

/Someone may be a lowly person, but he has the opportunity to repent before death, so he is better than a dead hero. /The wicked who are alive have the chance to repent and stand upright.

/Verse 6 says that it is important that we fix what we can fix, love, and do good while we live. Good deeds done in faith are an everlasting heritage.

/For us, having life is a hope. /We can rely on what has life. /A person may be a hero, but if he dies, he cannot be depended upon. /God is the fountain of life. /He is alive.

/If we trust in God, we have hope, and we find strength and comfort. /God is our hope. /Also, we must go forward with a living faith, not a dead one.

/Fourth, eat with joy and enjoy life. /Verses 7-9.  
/Verse 7. /Go, eat your bread with joy, and drink your wine with a merry heart, for God has already approved what you do

/The verse tells us to eat our bread with joy. /It tells us to drink wine with a merry heart. /When we enjoy food and drink, God is delighted. /Do people not find joy in eating? /Here, "bread" is the word of God, the food of the spirit.

/ "Wine" is talking about God's grace. /When we eat the word of God, he has joy. /Therefore we believers must rejoice when we receive God's grace. /God gives his believers true joy and peace. /However, we believers must not drink the wine that is visible.

/Proverbs 23:30 says, / “Those who tarry long over wine; /those who go to try mixed wine. /Do not look at wine when it is red, /when it sparkles in the cup /and goes down smoothly.” We must not even look at wine.

/We believers must be filled with the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 5:18. /Then we will receive God’s grace, and our mouths will sing psalms and praises.

/Verse 8. /Let your garments be always white. Let not oil be lacking on your head.

/The verse says, “Let your garments be always white.” /Revelation 19:8 says /that the white clothing represents the righteous deeds of believers. /The verse also says, “Let not oil be lacking on your head.”

/We Christians must give off the scent of Christ. /We must give off Christ’s beautiful scent. /Song of Solomon 2:2 says, / “As a lily among brambles, so is my love among the young women.” /Believers must be like lilies in this world.

/The people of this world are like thorns. /When the winds of affliction and trouble blow, believers are pierced by thorns. /But our scent is carried with the wind. When we are pierced by thorns, our scent becomes stronger.

/Revelation 16:15 says, / “Behold, I am coming like a thief! /Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, /that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!”

/The one who keeps his clothing is blessed. /The one who is not naked and exposed is blessed. /These days, Korea has become extremely corrupt. /Young girls in short skirts dance on television.

/How corrupt has this world become? /The young girls who sing wear very short shorts. /Their belly buttons are exposed. /It is a shameful thing.

/These girls do not know any shame. /But we believers must wear /the clothes of Jesus Christ, /and we must keep our clothes on. /Revelation 3:17

/Verse 9. /Enjoy life with the wife whom you love, all the days of your vain life that he has given you under the sun, because that is your portion in life and in your toil at which you toil under the sun.

/Living happily with a wife is our inheritance. /That is why God created Eve with Adam’s rib in Genesis 2:22. God let them live as husband and wife.

/Before two people become one, they are unstable people. /The couple that God has matched becomes a beautiful completion. /Matthew 19:4-6 say /man cannot separate what God has joined.

/Malachi 2:15 says that /God paired two people so that they may have godly children. /God brings people together so that they may have children of faith. /We must live in faith with the wife that God has matched us.

/Fifth, whatever your hand finds to do, do it with might. /Verse 10.  
/Verse 10. / Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might, for there is no work or thought or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol, to which you are going.

/We must do our best when God gives us work. /John 9:4 says that we must work hard to do God's work while there is light. /We must work hard when we have the opportunity to do the work we believe in and when we have the opportunity to serve. /Concerning the work of the world, we must also work hard when God has given us the chance.

/Sixth, time and chance determine everything. /Verses 11-12.  
/Verses 11-12. / Again I saw that under the sun the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to the intelligent, nor favor to those with knowledge, but time and chance happen to them all. For man does not know his time. Like fish that are taken in an evil net, and like birds that are caught in a snare, so the children of man are snared at an evil time, when it suddenly falls upon them.

/The person with quick feet does not always win the race. /A person may be swift, but if he is careless, he will not win. /Also, the strong do not always win the war. /David defeated Goliath.

/God selects the winners and losers of war. /If God does not help, nothing can happen. /Here, "time" refers to the time of God's judgment. /The word "chance" means "event" or "opportunity."

/God is in control of everything. /Nothing is decided by man's power or wisdom, but everything is decided according to God's plans and provision.

/As verse 12 says, the children of man can be snared at any time like a bird caught in a snare. /When a person is caught in a snare, it becomes difficult for the person to free himself with his own strength.

/Therefore we do not fall into a snare only if God prevents it from happening. /God helps those who fear him and obey him. /We must work with all our might in the work of the world and in the work of faith. /Isaiah 66:3.

/Seventh, wisdom delivers the city. /Verses 13-18.  
/Verses 13-15. / I have also seen this example of wisdom under the sun, and it seemed great to me. There was a little city with few men in it, and a great king came against it and besieged it, building great siegeworks against it. But there was found in it a poor, wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city. Yet no one remembered that poor man.

/Someone may be a hero, but he cannot save the city. /However, the wise man can deliver the city.

/In 2 Samuel 20:14-22, /Joab, the captain of David's army, surrounds the city of Abel to capture Sheba the traitor. /When this happens, a wise woman speaks words of wisdom to Joab to save the city.

/The wise woman persuades the people of the city to kill Sheba, and in turn, the city is saved. /However, the people do not remember the grace of such people, but they forget. / The world's generosity is quick to change and it is selfish.

/Verse 16. / But I say that wisdom is better than might, though the poor man's wisdom is despised and his words are not heard.

/The verse says that "wisdom is better than might." /However, the poor man's wisdom is despised.

/In this way, wisdom is better than force. /If we look at China's "The Art of War," the book says it is wise to win a battle without fighting. /I hope that we all can seek wisdom and can overcome hardship with wisdom.

/Verse 17. / The words of the wise heard in quiet are better than the shouting of a ruler among fools.

/ "The words of the wise heard in quiet" are words of faith. /Words of faith have power. / The reason is those words are fulfilled as they are said.

/Verse 18. /Wisdom is better than weapons of war, but one sinner destroys much good.

/The verse says that wisdom is better than weapons. /Fighting with wisdom is better than fighting with weapons. /The one who uses the sword will die by the sword. /Therefore those who keep their faith eventually succeed. /2 Corinthians 10:4

/The verse says, "One sinner destroys much good." /One sinner destroys much good. /Galatians 5:9

/This concludes the 10<sup>th</sup> lecture on the book of Ecclesiastes. /Thank you.