

## Application Questions

Ecclesiastes 8:10-17

Consider the New Year's resolutions you have made in the past. How many fall in the category of self help? How many would be defined as helping others? How many would be defined as manipulation?

Read verse 10. Reflect upon the life of the one who is buried. What build and to the frequent? What kind of a person does a text say he was? What challenge does is present to us?

Read verse 11. Have you ever felt that judgment was slow in coming? What are some of the reasons for this? Consider Genesis 3:4-5. What was Satan's great lie? Do you see the same lie at work in our day?

Read verses 12-14. How does Solomon show he's a man of faith in verse 12? Reflecting upon the shadow in verse 13, when did we see a shadow? In the world what does the phrase "casting a long shadow" mean? Looking at verse 14, have you experienced times where the righteous suffered and the wicked prospered? How is the Christian to respond to such events?

Considering verses 16-17, what is the world's way of dealing with injustice? Why does this way fail? Have you ever tried to solve the great problems of life through the philosophies of man?

Read verse 15. What does God call us to do? What does the word enjoyment mean? How does our work last? What is at work? What is God called you to do?

## Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

## Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared to hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

## A note to our visitors

It is a pleasure having you as a special guest in our Sunday worship today. We hope that you feel warmly welcomed by those around you.

Our goal at Providence Church is to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ through biblical worship and through a lifestyle of community to others. We consider it a privilege to make ourselves available to you and your family, and would appreciate the opportunity to get to know you better.

Perhaps you are new to the area and are searching for a church. Whether this is the case or whether you are simply visiting, we hope that it will not be your last time with us. Feel free to contact us at the church office (309-387-2600) if there is any way that we can be of service to you, or if you have questions that you would like answered about Providence Church or the Christian Faith.