

- b. It is marked by monotony and repetition even in the areas where we should find ourselves expert.

1:9-10 and many others. Little comment is needed.

- c. It is constantly threatened with a host of inequities about which it can do little:

Scripture

Observations

2:12, 16

4:1

5:8, 14-16

6:2, 6-8

7:15-16

8:10-11

Without trying to comment on each of these, one can quickly see how the inequities threaten and make life troubled. Who will inherit your goods? Will that person care for them or squander them? Can you guarantee that because you are strong you will win the contest? No...and other seeming inequities abound as well. Ah, if life were just fair! But such does not seem to be the case and we are left not very happy with what seems to be our only shot at it.

- d. Its affairs are more likely to be met with frustration than with success...even when our abilities are keen.

Scripture

Observations

1:15

7:20-22, 25-29

10:4-6

5:9-14

Some of us cannot even list the Scripture in proper descendent order! You would like to put things into full and correct perspective but they are too numerous and the power to do it does not come forth. Your education, for example, may only serve to make you unhappy as you take orders from someone who is obviously a fool.

The ultimate point is that living is a "chancy" situation when viewed in this light. It is just existence in a scary world where disaster is as eminent as deliverance. It is no wonder that those who only see this side of Ecclesiastes are often bewildered by its meaning and its place in the canon.

2. Positive aspects of the living process and life itself. The value and usefulness of life is clearly seen in the counter-balance of these points:

- a. It is an opportunity for learning of eternal things.

Scripture

Observations

2:12-13

6:9-10

9:1, 4-6

12:1-7

We see that there is an eternity to be faced and in this life we have opportunity to learn what is important about it and what is needed for it. Seeing this life in view of eternity is positive and helpful.