

Ecclesiastes

Avon Heights, 4th Quarter, 2009

Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2009

LESSON #7-C: Eccl.. 10:1-11

Theme: Proverbs continued

1. What tends to outweigh all the wisdom of the wise and honorable in life under the sun? **10:1-3 (cf. 9:18b)**

a. Can you give any current examples of the above?

b. Is it easier to build or to tear down?

2. How should a wise man conduct himself before tyrannical rulers?
10:4-7 (cf. Prov. 16:14; Note Matt. 5:5)

a. In the midst of great injustice, is there a wise alternative to revolution?

3. What must be considered in taking any action? **10:8-11**

a. What is the difference between success and failure in an undertaking? Consider the context.

It's always too soon to quit

By Ethan Hansen

“Winners never quit. Quitters never win.” I can still see that sign hanging in our locker room. It had been mounted by my high school coach to build character and instill courage within us. The message came through loud and clear. This was not rocket science. It would become the bedrock foundation of our every drill, our every practice, our every game.

Take, for example, a gifted athlete who is blessed with every advantage: size, height, speed, muscles, strength. He is the total package. Inevitably, he is competing against a less gifted athlete, who is smaller, slower, shorter, less muscular. So often, the less gifted athlete beats the swifter and more muscular one. Even Solomon recognized “that the race is not to the swift” (Ecclesiastes 9:11). . .

In the 1986 New York City Marathon almost 20,000 runners entered this famous race. What is memorable is not who finished first, but who finished last. His name is Bob Wieland. He finished 19,413th. Dead last. Bob completed the New York City Marathon in — are you read for this? — four days, two hours, 48 minutes, 17 seconds. Unquestionably it was the slowest marathon in history.

What makes Wieland's story so special? Bob ran with his arms. Bob's legs were blown off in Vietnam 17 years earlier. Why bother to finish? Because there is a victory to be experienced in simply finishing the course. Jesus said, “Many who are first will be last; and the last, first” (Matthew 19:30, 20:16). It will take another world to determine who the real winners are down here on earth.

Jesus finished well. His marathon began in Bethlehem and he endured all the way to the cross. When Jesus died on the cross, he cried out, “It is finished!” (John 19:30). Redemption was accomplished. He died as a substitute in our place. The father's wrath was poured out upon Jesus. His blood paid for our sins. Jesus didn't quit. He finished the race. You must do the same.