

SERMON OUTLINE Ecclesiastes 7:13-18

Consider the Work of God

CONSIDER THE WORK OF GOD (13-14)

God Makes Things Crooked (13)

God Makes Days of Adversity (14)

DO NOT DESTROY YOURSELF (15-18)

Means of Destroying Yourself (16-17)

Means of Not Destroying Yourself (18)

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

The big idea of this passage and sermon is that God is sovereign over every aspect of our lives in such a way that we cannot reliably predict how things will turn out or know precisely what God is doing in them. The main takeaways are cultivating humility, the fear of God, and trust in God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. What have been the most discouraging and hopeful aspects of the Preacher's honesty about life under the sun?
3. Have you ever wondered about God's involvement in the harder things in your life? What did you conclude?
4. What preferences in your life are not being met in a frustrating way? Which systems seem bent?
5. Is it difficult to hear that God makes things crooked?
6. Do you find yourself eager to receive prosperity at God's hand, but not adversity? Why do you think that is?
7. How are you trying to make crooked things straight? Not at all? On your own? In faith?
8. Why do the righteous suffer while the wicked prosper? Have you ever experienced this?
9. Do you try to be overly righteous, wise, wicked, or foolish? What does it look like in your life when you do? What's the result?
10. In what ways do you take sin too lightly?
11. Do you fear God? Is your fear consistent with what the Bible says about fearing God? How do you know?
12. In what way/s did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

13. Read back through Ecclesiastes 1-7. Make a list of all the things that stand out after our time in it.
14. Consider the works of God in crookedness in the Bible and in your life. Write down as much as you find/remember.
15. Ask a friend to help you respond rightly to something that is bent in your life.
16. Find a way to work in faith to straighten something crooked this week.
17. Read a book on holiness this week. [Holiness](#). [The Hole in our Holiness](#). [The Mortification of Sin](#). [Future Grace](#).
18. Find a way to cultivate humility, fear of God, and trust in God this week. Share that with someone in your home and/or DG.
19. Ask two different people in your family or DG (1) One thing they got from this sermon, and (2) How you can pray for them.
20. Pick one specific thing you mean to do differently, with the Spirit's help, as a result of the things you heard in this text/sermon.

PRAYER POINTS

21. Adoration. Praise God that He is sovereign, wise, and good. Praise God that He is omnipotent and omniscient. Praise God that He is prosperous and joyful. Praise God that He is righteous and holy. Praise God that He is merciful and gracious.
22. Confess. Confess any ways you've tried to make something straight that God intends to be crooked. Confess any ways you've relied on your own wisdom instead of God's. Confess being overly righteous, wise, wicked, or foolish. Confess taking sin too lightly. Confess your failure to consider the work of God. Confess mistrust in God. Confess your wickedness and folly.
23. Thanksgiving. Thank God for His marvelous works. Thank God for making things crooked and straight for glory and good. Thank God for providing joy and prosperity as well as adversity. Thank God for Jesus' righteousness. Thank God for revealing His wisdom and ways. Thank God for the honesty of the Preacher. Thank God for life after death and for His patience.
24. Supplication. Ask God to make us a church that considers and discusses the marvelous works of God. Ask God to grant us growing trust in him. Ask God to fill us with contentment and righteousness. Ask God to help forsake wickedness and folly.