

INTRODUCTION

- * We are entering into the second half of our study of the book of Ecclesiastes. Over the past two weeks, we have considered the importance of Remembering Our Creator in Our Labor and in Our Season of Life. In each of those studies, we saw the importance of redeeming time and the importance of our consideration of others.
- * Today, we turn to that Consideration as our focus ... Remembering Your Creator in Your Consideration of Others.
- * As we considered the topic of Remembering Your Creator in Your Pursuit of Wisdom, we saw that there are actually two "wisdoms" - "Worldly Wisdom" and "Heavenly Wisdom." One of the primary distinguishing factors between these two wisdoms is who is targeted beneficiary of our actions. "Worldly wisdom" is self-focused because we are truly our own god. "Heavenly wisdom" focuses upon God and others as it seeks to be aligned with the greatest commands: to Love God and to Love Your Neighbor.
- * Paul encouraged believers to have the "mind of Christ" which would be revealed in how we treat, or consider, others. Philippians 2:1-5 states, "Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus."
- * Today, we will examine how this mindset is the antithesis of that of those who have a worldly mindset.

INSTRUCTION

I. A CONSIDERATION OF THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED

A. The Mind of Man

1. FOCUSED ON HIS PR _____
2. FOCUSED ON HIS PR _____ (cf. Leviticus 6:2-5; 19:13; Nehemiah 5:1-6; Proverbs 22:16; Deuteronomy 24:14-15)

B. The Mind of Christ

1. CONSIDERING THE V _____ OF THE OPPRESSED (cf. Proverbs 14:31; 22:2)
2. CONSIDERING THE N _____ OF THE OPPRESSED
 - a. Their Need for E _____ Support (cf. Matthew 25:34-40)
 - b. Their Need for F _____ Assistance (cf. Proverbs 19:17; Proverbs 28:27; Proverbs 11:24-25; Deuteronomy 15:7-14)

II. A CONSIDERATION OF THOSE WHO ARE YOUR NEIGHBORS

A. The Mind of Man

- * cf. Exodus 20:12-17; Luke 12:15; Ephesians 5:1-7; Galatians 5:25-26

B. The Mind of Christ

1. REJOICING WITH YOUR NEIGHBOR (cf. Leviticus 19:18; 1 Corinthians 13:4; Romans 12:14-18; 1 Corinthians 12:26)
2. CONTENT WITH THE PROVISION OF GOD (cf. Philippians 4:11-13; Matthew 6:31-34)

III. A CONSIDERATION OF THOSE WHO ARE SINGLE

A. The Mind of Man

B. The Mind of Christ

1. CONSIDERING THE V _____ OF THE SINGLE
2. CONSIDERING THE N _____ OF THE SINGLE
 - a. The Need for F _____ (cf. Genesis 2:18)
 - b. The Need for A _____ (cf. 1 Samuel 23:16; Numbers 11:14; Proverbs 18:1)
 - c. The Need for A _____ (cf. Proverbs 27:9; Proverbs 27:17; Daniel 3:16-18)

INTROSPECTION

- * How "Other-Focused" are you?
- * How do you view those who are poor and needy? Do you have love of Christ toward them?
- * How do you "feel" when others get honored, attention, a special gift, etc? Are you genuinely excited for them, or inwardly jealous/envious?
- * Is there a need to change the way you think and therefore the way you act?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

- * As Christians, what is a Biblical response to "poverty" in our country and in other countries?
- * Is there a "line" for those within the body of Christ? To what extent should the church minister to the "poor and needy"?
- * How do we define the difference between "needs" and "wants"?