

I. The Providence and Judgment of God (vv 11-12).**A. The Providence of God (v 11)**

- 1) Our work and strength are no guarantee, as nothing goes quite like we think it should.
- 2) Everything happens by the will of God (Eccl 3:11; 1 Kgs 5:3-4)
- 3) Uses from the Point
 - a) Do not depend upon your own strength and wisdom.
 - b) Do not presume upon God's grace.
 - c) Rather, trust in the Lord, be diligent, and rest content in His will (Pr 3:5-6)

B. The Judgment of God

- 1) God thwarts the plans of man (v 11)
- 2) Destruction comes swiftly to the unsuspecting (v 12)
 - a) This is true of the death of men and women, boys and girls, whose days are numbered by the Lord.
 - b) This is true of judgment coming upon branches of the Visible Church who are so pruned for their corruption and apostasy (Rev 2:22-23)
 - c) This is true of the destruction of nations when the measure of their sins is filled to the uttermost (Obadiah 4)
 - d) This is true of the return of Christ, the Day of the Lord when He shall come to judge the living and the dead (Mt 24:37-44)
- 3) Let us not forget that death is a judgment for the sin of Adam, and is passed upon all creatures (1 Cor 15:21)
- 4) Use from the Text: Be warned against this judgment

II. Salvation Is in Christ Alone (vv 13-15a).

- A. Solomon is writing by the Holy Spirit as a Preacher (Eccl 12:11)
- B. Here, Solomon does not see vanity under the sun, but wisdom! (v 13; 1 Cor 1:22-24)
- C. A Parable of Salvation (vv 14-15a)
 - 1) *There was a little city with few men in it* (Psa 87:1, 8:4).
 - 2) *And a great king came against it . . .*
 - a) *He came against* the Church (Rev 12:17)

- b) *He besieged it*, that is, *he surrounded* the Church with Her enemies (2 Cor 4:8)
- c) *A great king . . . built great snares around it*, set hunting traps around the Church for those who depart the narrow path either to the right or to the left.
 - i. These are the ongoing temptations from the world (Eccl 7:26; Mt 13:22).
 - ii. These are the corruptions from within, which are tools of Satan (Mt 24:5; 1 Jn 4:3; 2 Thes 2:9-10; 2 Pt 2:1-2).
 - iii. Why will he not leave us alone? (Psa 68:16)
- 3) *Now there was found in it a poor wise man, and he by wisdom delivered the city* (v 15a)
 - a) The Deliverer — Which is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ
 - i. He is called *poor* (Isa 53:2-3).
 - ii. Yet, He is *wise*
 - iii. And He is a *man* — True and very God come in the flesh, body and soul, true and very man (1 Tim 2:5).
 - b) The Deliverance (Heb 2:14-15)
 - c) The Delivered (Zech 2:8-11)
- D. Uses from the Text — Two Questions:
 - 1) *First*, Do you see your need for deliverance?
 - 2) *Second*, How can you be so delivered?

III. Heed the Call of the Gospel (vv 15b-18).

- A. The Warning
 - 1) Do not forget the Lord (v 15b)
 - 2) Do not look to your own strength (v 16a)
 - 3) Do not think these words are not for you (v 16b) — Whether:
 - 4) Do not be deafened by the shouting of the pleasures of this world (v 17)
- B. The Command
 - 1) Believe upon Jesus Christ (v 16a, 18a; Psa 63:3)
 - 2) Repent from your sins
 - 3) Continue in Christ by the Spirit to the end (1 Thes 1:10)
- C. The Promise (1 Jn 3:8; 1 Cor 15:21-22).
- D. Further Use from the Text: Delight in Christ