

**I. Understanding the Question (v 3)****A.** Simple summary of the question**B.** The Propriety of the Question

- 1) We are to ask this question in faith (Psa 73:1)
- 2) We ask this question with humble confession (Psa 73:2-3)
- 3) We ask this question to the right person (Psa 64:1a)

**C.** Uses from the Text

- 1) *Note*, This question presupposes that we are going to work nonetheless (Gen 3:17b; Dt 29:29).
- 2) *Note*, This question presupposes that we are to persevere through our troubles (Jn 16:33)
- 3) The answer [or lack thereof] to this question should lead us to patience (Rom 11:33-36)

**II. Illustrations and Experience (vv 5-10)****A.** The glory of God magnified in His Word (WCF 1.5)

- 1) The heavenliness of the matter
- 2) The majesty of style — Personification and Parallels
- 3) *Use*, Let us delight in God for the gift of His Word.

**B.** Illustrations and Experience

- 1) Structure: There are three illustrations, three statements of experience structured in a form of mirror.
- 2) The Laboriousness of Life (vv 5, 10)
  - a) The Illustration (v 5)
  - b) The Experience (v 10)
  - c) *Use*, Do we not see here the need for the Lord's Day! (Isa 58:13-14)
- 3) The Circuitry, or Repetitiveness, of Life (vv 6, 9)
  - a) The Illustration (v 6)
  - b) The Experience (v 9)
  - c) *Use*, We should beware claims of innovation and the fads of modernity, which are usually but old things in new dress (Jsh 6:26).
- 4) The Dissatisfaction of Life (vv 7, 8)
  - a) The Illustration (v 7)

**b)** The Experience (v 8)

- c) *Use*, Do not set your hopes on the foolish errand of 'arriving' (Jonah 4).

**C.** Uses from the Text

- 1) We ought to apply gratitude and faith from this passage (Eccl 12:13).
  - a) That things in life are new to us, though not intrinsically new (Lk 2:52).
  - b) The repetition of life is for our benefit.
  - c) Like the waters of the streams and seas, we are weary but not empty (Pr 8:29, 30:8-9; 2 Cor 4:7-10).
- 2) Let us be contentment in the ordinary nature of life (Psa 8:3-5).
- 3) Here we have the hope of the resurrection set before us (Rev 21:23, 22:1; Ezk 47:3-5).

**III. Thesis and Summary (vv 4, 11)****A.** The Turnover Rate (v 4; 1 Cor 15:28).**B.** The Retention Rate (v 11)

- 1) Here we are confronted with the sin of Babel, which we find lurking in our own hearts (Gen 11:4)
- 2) This can be a great burden to the Church.
  - a) As when the world forgets the benefit of the presence of the Visible Church (Ex 1:8)
  - b) As when the Church denies or despises the faithfulness of our forefathers (Jdg 2:7)
- 3) This can also be a great kindness to the Church that the wicked and their wickedness are forgotten on the face of the earth (Psa 109:13, 15-16)

**C.** Uses from the Text

- 1) We must evaluate our hope (Mt 6:1-4; Heb 11:6)
- 2) Let us have humility from shortness of our days (Isa 40:6-8)
- 3) Let us be faithfulness for its own sake, not the earthly reward (Lk 17:10; Col 1:28-29)
- 4) While there is no memorial for man, there is a perpetual memorial of Christ and His work until His return (1 Cor 11:24-25).