

02-03-04a Ecclesiastes

1 Corinthians chapter 15, this is a lengthy chapter and I'm going to read it and I will not necessarily give the depth of commentary I sometimes give on our scripture reading that takes up our whole first session because it's straight forward, it speaks for itself and it directly bears on our passage this morning in Ecclesiastes chapter 9. 1 Corinthians 15, Moreover brethren I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you which also you received and in which you stand by which also you are saved if you hold fast that word which I preached to you unless you believed in vain for I delivered to you first of all that which I also received that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures and that he was buried and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures and that he was seen by Cephas then by the twelve after that he was seen by over five hundred brethren at once of whom the greater part remain to the present but some have fallen asleep after that he was seen by James then by all the apostles then last of all he was seen by me also as by one born out of due time for I am the least of the apostles who are not worthy to be called an apostle because I persecuted the church of God but by the grace of God I am what I am and his grace toward me was not in vain but I labored more abundantly than they all yet not I but the grace of God which was with me therefore whether it was I or they so we preach and so you believed. Now if Christ is preached that he has been raised from the dead how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead but if there is no resurrection of the dead then Christ is not risen and if Christ is not risen then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty yes and we are found false witnesses of God because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ whom he did not raise up if in fact the dead do not rise for if the dead do not rise then Christ is not risen and if Christ is not risen your faith is futile you are still in your sins then also those who have fallen asleep and Christ have perished if in this life only we have hope in Christ we are of all men the most pitiable but now Christ is risen from the dead and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep for since by man came death by man also came the resurrection of the dead for as in Adam all die even so in Christ all shall be made alive but each one in his own order Christ the firstfruits afterward those who are Christ's at his coming then comes the end when he delivers up the kingdom to God the father when he puts an end to all rule and all authority and power for he must reign till he has put all enemies under his feet the last enemy that will be destroyed is death for quote he has put all things under his feet that's courses from Psalm 8 6 but when he says all things are put under him it is evident that he who put all things under him is accepted now when all things are made subject to him then the son himself will also be subject to him who put all things under him so that God may be all in all we are going to stop at this point because we have a reference in verse 29 to those who are baptized for the dead and I want to just give you an explanation that this doesn't mean that they are somehow trying to buy them out of purgatory or you know there was a practice in the Catholic church for a long time where they would say well you know uncle Joe passed away here or your father or your mother passed away and they weren't really squared away and they didn't get a chance to light their candles and say their Hail Marys and do their penance and so they are in purgatory but you

can do some things you can do some penance you can contribute some money and you can bail them out sort of and there are people who because of this practice in the Catholic church got the idea that what Paul is about to speak of here was some sort of ritual or some sort of observance that would benefit the dead and that's not what he is talking about what he is talking about is there are believers who have passed away but because of their example people have said you know I want to have a change of mind I want to reflect that in the ritual of water baptism which is what that ritual was designed to portray not only to symbolize death burial and resurrection and identification with Christ but also to make a public profession of your faith in that spiritual reality it was a teaching tool it was an object lesson and it was a public proclamation of that faith and that's why in a large part of Christianity today water baptism is still practiced and when it is practiced scripturally it is done in public you don't sequester yourself in somebody's backyard in a swimming pool you don't I don't even think it should be done in the confines of a church in a baptistry I think if you are going to do water baptism in the scriptural sense you need to go to a public place all the only exception you can find is when Philip baptized the Ethiopian eunuch and they would have had to make a huge detour to find a crowd to observe that the eunuch said well here is some water why can't we just do it here Philip says fine and he baptized him and it was a witness to Philip it was an object lesson Philip got the chance to talk about what it means to be identified with the Father and with the Son and with the Holy Spirit and it was a commitment in the mind of the Ethiopian eunuch you know people often ask me well should we practice water baptism I do not believe it is prescribed but I think if you understand scriptural concepts if you recognize that it is not adding to salvation and that it is not commanded it's like fasting it's like a lot of other things in the scripture it is not so much what you do as why you do it and there are people who feel strongly that they want to quote follow the Lord in baptism Jesus was baptized I want to be baptized they baptized in the early church fine but it is not required you are not somehow a deficient Christian if you either haven't been baptized or choose not to be baptized or if you don't baptize your children or if you don't really think water baptism is still in operation I personally don't think that it was designed to last beyond the transitional age like the spiritual gifts it was used in the place of scripture they didn't have a new testament to hand somebody we've got the little new testament and psalms well they didn't have one of those to hand out so baptism was a testimony it was a teaching tool there were churches already in existence that didn't have a scrap of new testament scripture gospels hadn't been written yet they might have a letter of Paul floating around somewhere or they might not so how did people learn about the work of Christ and learn about their salvation well the ritual of water baptism was a wonderful teaching tool what a great way to picture identification with Christ in death burial and resurrection death to the old man death to the old way of life change of mind forgetting those things which are behind the death he died he died to sin the life he lives he lives to God you could preach a whole morning service or two around a baptism well that's what Paul is referring to here in verse 29 otherwise what will they do who are baptized for the dead if the dead do not rise at all here you've had the testimony of baptism and you would say well why didn't you just say why are people baptized he says why are they baptized on account of the dead or as a result of these who have died and the

idea here is not just that baptism pictures this but there are people who not only were baptized but now they have died so if there's no resurrection then you know water baptism you would say well I baptize you in the name of the father son you don't come out of the water just leave them there these people died in the hope of coming back up out of the water as well as you know the spiritual significance of dying to the old man and living to the new way of life these people have gone on and died in the physical sense and what is their great hope that they're going to be raised just as Christ was raised if Christ was not raised we're adding something to baptism we ought to just put people under the water and as soon as they drown then we can we're done what will they do who are baptized for the dead if the dead do not rise at all why then are they baptized for the dead in other words in remembrance and bearing in mind the testimony of believers who themselves were baptized and who lived a life of hope in the church and here are people saying you know I want to commit myself I want to do this same public ritual and manifest to others not only that I am dying to my old way of life and want to live a new life to God but that I have the hope because that ritual identifies you with Christ and Christ died and was buried and rose again the third day if that's not so then the whole system of testimony via water baptism is deeply flawed why do people see that and see people have done that and now have died and say well they're never coming back well then baptism becomes meaningless why do we stand in jeopardy every hour why is Paul willing to risk his life for the gospel and for the faith if it's only good for you while you're alive then why would anybody risk their life if you lose your life then it's all pointless you know nothing is worth losing your life over if you only have hope in this life the reason Paul is willing he and his fellow apostles and associates his fellow laborers in the gospel the reason they are willing to risk death is that they know there's something beyond death I affirm by the confidence or boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord I die daily what does he mean soon in our Ecclesiastes or rather our Luke study next Friday night we're going to be talking about figurative language a little bit and we'll see examples of this you know if you're a plain literal fanatic you'd have to say well God Paul died every day and God resurrected him every day he just died heart stopped quit breathing God brought him back what's he saying I place I am I am placing my life in jeopardy every day I could die any day if in the manner of man I have fought with beasts at Ephesus what advantage is it to me and he said you know he was at Ephesus was imprisoned and evidently he was put out into the Roman arena and came very close to death among all of his other adventures he makes a reference here which is otherwise not mentioned you know he gives a list in other places of all the different times he got thirty nine stripes and was stoned and was beaten and imprisoned and so on here he mentioned something we haven't mentioned we do not have mentioned elsewhere that at some point when he was imprisoned in Ephesus he was one of the Christians who got put out there with the lions obviously he survived the experience but he says what's the advantage why risk yourself to the point of being thrown to the lions if the Romans succeed in killing you and you come away with nothing if you are empty handed kind of reminds us of our study in Ecclesiastes is there any point to life if you leave it empty handed if the dead do not rise let us eat and drink for tomorrow we die this of course is a reference back to Isaiah 22 verse 13 do not be deceived evil company corrupts good habits

awake to righteousness and do not sin for some do not have the knowledge of God I speak this to your shame there are people who don't believe in the resurrection who have this carpe diem sort of attitude in the fleshly sense let's grab for the gusto in life because we are only going to go around once and this is all there is and there are believers who espouse this view who didn't have a concept of the hope of the resurrection and he says don't be deceived if you keep company with these people they are going to drag you down this is the caution for believers who knowingly and willingly enroll in seminaries that teach bad theology they say well they have a real good language program but even though they are five point Calvinists or even though they are hand waving charismatics I'm just going there for the language I'm just going for this I just need to get a degree and they are convenient they are close by whatever it might be bad company will corrupt good habits and if you do not spend your time and your fellowship in the word of God and you begin to spend your time in fellowship with believers who are in error failing to note the doctrine of separation you will have your thinking corrupted it just is what scripture teaches now we are back on our subject in verse 35 someone will say how are the dead raised up and with what body do they come and he goes on to discuss the difference between the flesh that belongs to this earth and the resurrection body that we will have if you scan that and arrive at verse 42 in the resurrection of the dead the body is sown in corruption it is raised in incorruption it is sown in dishonor it is raised in glory it is sown in weakness it is raised in power it is sown in natural body it is raised in spiritual body there is a natural body and there is a spiritual body so it is written the first man Adam became a living being the last Adam became a life giving spirit however the spiritual is not first but the natural and afterward the spiritual first man was of the earth made of dust the second man is the Lord from heaven as was the man of dust so also are those who are made of dust and as is the heavenly man so are those who are made heavenly in essence if we remain in the first Adam alone then we don't have a bright hope in the future because the first man was under sentence of death in Adam all die we want to be in Christ and there are two senses of that one is positional when we are saved we are in Christ and we know for sure we are going to be resurrected but Christ did more than survive his crucifixion or be resurrected from his crucifixion once he was resurrected he resumed the work of the father the life that he lives he lives to God and the idea here is that those who are heavenly those who are anticipating their resurrection are living their life in that anticipation and are getting ready to continue to serve God after resurrection just as Christ did and does as we have born the image of the man of dust we shall also bear the image of the heavenly man this I say brethren that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God nor does corruption inherit incorruption then he goes on to this very famous passage behold I tell you a mystery we shall not all sleep but we shall all be changed in a moment in the twinkling of an eye at the last trumpet for the trumpet will sound and the dead will be raised incorruptible and we shall be changed for this corruptible must put on incorruption this mortal must put on immortality so when this corruptible has put on incorruption and this mortal has put on immortality then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written death is swallowed up in victory oh death where is your sting oh Hades where is your victory the sting of death is sin the strength of sin is the law but thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord

Jesus Christ therefore why has he gone through these 57 verses of information therefore my beloved brethren be steadfast be immovable be always abounding in the work of the Lord why knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord now what is he saying here when he says therefore be steadfast immovable and abounding in the work of the Lord knowing that your labor is not in vain the sense of this is that you often may not and will not see an effect or a result or even a difference in this life when you are being steadfast and being immovable and abounding in the work of the Lord you may not see individuals or groups around you coming to Christ and being in the work of the Lord being impacted by your testimony being disciplined by your witness being influenced by the light that you are shining in a dark place you may not see any of that you may win your spiritual battles you may be faithful and steadfast and serve and you see no discernible difference in the lives of people or in the number of converts to Christianity or any other human measure Paul talks about the resurrection and talks about what is going to take place after resurrection the service and the status that we will be party to and he says therefore be steadfast and immovable always abounding in the work of the Lord knowing that your labor is not in vain if you only look at this life you can sometimes conclude that your labor is in vain you may not ever see material results or results on this earth and there may or may not be any a lot of people say well I didn't see it at the time but I know that somewhere somehow it made a difference and they are thinking about this life it may not and this is exactly what Solomon is going to address has been addressing in chapter 8 of Ecclesiastes and where he is going in chapter 9 well I said I didn't want to take up the whole session on that chapter and I am pretty proud of myself in covering 58 verses and getting away with some time left so while I am on a roll here and doing great on self control let's turn back now to Ecclesiastes chapter 9 because believe me there is a lot more that could be said Ecclesiastes chapter 9 you remember that we have seen in chapter 8 that beginning in actually in most of the chapter it's not really a good place to begin but you will recall that Solomon has been addressing the idea that it seems like the same thing happens to the righteous that happens to the wicked and there had been sort of a superficial construction of God's communication to Israel via Moses in the Pentateuch especially in Deuteronomy that if you do well you will be blessed so an immediate logical relationship was established in the minds of shallow thinking Israelites that well if I am blessed I must be righteous because God says that if I am righteous I will be blessed well this is sort of like saying I have a Siamese cat and cats have I am trying to think of how that logical flaw goes now you say I have a cat my cat has four legs then you see another animal that has four legs you say well that must be a cat because cats have four legs so my pet is a cat that has four legs oh look there is somebody else's pet that has four legs that must be a cat just because four legs are there doesn't make it a cat it is true that all cats have four legs but not all four legged animals are cats it is true that God will bless the righteous and that they are promised prosperity but it does not follow that everyone who is prosperous is being blessed by God and it particularly does not follow that the blessing God is talking about is limited to time there are lots of variables that were overlooked or intentionally distorted by those who wanted to invent a theology that suited their lifestyle and we have seen that in Luke with the Pharisees and the scribes and the whole mindset behind those

groups so this is what Solomon is pointing out he says I have seen the wicked coming and going from the holy place and blessing themselves and patting each other on the back and saying who is the guy that stuck in his thumb and pulled out a plum and said what a good boy am I that is what these people are doing so he says I don't see it happening according to the conventional wisdom I don't see it happening according to the construction of the law that says that righteous are blessed if you are not blessed you are not righteous and so on he begins this in chapter 8 and gets pretty strong on it along about verse 10 and 11 the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily and people are encouraged to go on and think that their understanding is correct because God doesn't seem to slap down the wicked every time they sin a lot of people sin and seem to get away with it he says I have seen that the hearts of the sons of men in verse 11 of chapter 8 are filled up in them to work evil the one sinning and working evil a hundred times endures sometimes endures because of it he commits wrong things and it preserves him I know however that good will be to those fearing God because they fear before his face and good will not be to the wicked and he will not prolong his days like a shadow because he did not fear before the face of God Solomon says I know this is true but I don't necessarily see it proving itself out in life in my experience of looking around because there is a vapor that is worked upon the earth this is verse 14 there is a vapor there is a temporary condition there is an ethereal impermanent thing that happens on the earth because there are righteous ones that it is befalling them they are suffering the fate according to the work of the wicked think Job and there are wicked ones and it's befalling them according to the work of the righteous I have said that this also is vapor I've said before and I'm saying again Solomon tells us that this is temporary this is impermanent this is characteristic of things under the sun only so I myself commended pleasure verse 15 because there is nothing good for a man under the sun for if to eat and to drink and to be pleased to enjoy things this will accompany him in his labor in the days of his life that God has given to him under the sun if you're going to be short sighted if you're only going to look at the vapor trail that is this life then the best I can offer you is enjoy it while it lasts this is essentially what Solomon is saying I'm commending pleasure for people who are these who are short sighted verse 16 he says according as I gave my heart to know wisdom and to see the answer that is worked upon the earth and this is really where we resume this morning verse 16 in your New King James it says when I applied my heart to know wisdom and to see the business that is done on earth even though one sees no sleep day or night then I saw all the work of God that a man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun for though a man labors to discover it yet he will not find it moreover though a wise man attempts to know it he will not be able to find it well this honestly didn't convey a lot to me when I was trying to work with it just out of my English Bible what is Solomon telling us here he's already introduced the subject that there is not necessarily a cause and effect for being a good guy or being a bad guy in this life bad things happen to good people good things seem to happen to bad people and he says now I know in verse 13 that it will not be well with the wicked he says I know in verse 12 it will be well with those who fear God and who fear before him he says it will be sometime in the future what on earth is he talking about well he has he's the one that told us about the setting of the sun right he's the

one that has told us that there is a confidence there is a hope that goes beyond the grave we've talked before about how Solomon is attempting to lift the Old Testament saints gaze beyond the grave there was so little revelation about the kingdom or about the coming of the Redeemer and about you know it's kind of like your headlights on a dark night I've been heading south on interstate 44 in the southern part of Oklahoma and sometimes even though I've got my brights on it seems like the darkness just swallows up the light if there aren't a lot of houses and lights in the periphery sometimes you just get the idea that if it wasn't for the stripes on the highway you could see nothing at all it's just inky black and your headlights can only illuminate a certain distance in front of your car well as you get further down the road you can see further down the road but there's a limited range of vision at night with your headlights and it was the same in the Old Testament in the sense that there were areas where when people tried to look ahead there just wasn't a lot of revelation God had not shined a light on the kingdom like he's going to later on in the prophets you know if you want to know about the kingdom read Isaiah if you want to know about the kingdom read Ezekiel if you want to know about the kingdom read some of the latter prophets the minor prophets Joel and so on Amos and listen to John the Baptist and listen to the Lord Jesus preaching the kingdom but in Solomon's day this is a thousand years before Christ it's several hundred years before Isaiah and some of the later writing prophets so there's not a whole lot known and it was a real tendency to live for the moment and live in the present and judge everything by what could be seen in one's immediate circumstances and so Solomon has been at great pains to point out that there is a time and there is a judgment that's coming that was verse six of this last chapter so what's he saying here if you're just going to live in the present then pleasure is all you're going to get it's like Jesus telling the talking about the Pharisees who stand on the street corners he says they have their reward when I applied my heart verse sixteen to know wisdom and to see and it says here the business that is done on the earth this is our old friend Inyon I-N-Y-A-N you'll remember from way back in chapter one we found out that this is not the task that God tasks the sons of men with this is the answer that God answers the sons of men with Inyon does not mean business or task in this context it means answer so verse sixteen again according as or accordingly remember in verse fifteen I'm telling these people you know you might as well live it up in the limited days of your life God's given you under the sun accordingly I gave my heart to know wisdom and to see the answer that is worked upon the earth what is the answer to this conflict well the last half of verse sixteen says literally for also in the day and in the night in the night's sleep his eyes are not seeing so this I think is parenthetical and in my translation of verse sixteen the first half is in parenthesis he says to eat and drink and be pleased that pleasure will accompany the short sighted man in his labor in the days of his life that God has given to him under the sun for this reason or accordingly I gave my heart to know wisdom and to see the answer that is worked upon the earth close parenthesis for also now we're back talking about the short sighted man in the day and in the night's sleep his eyes are not seeing remember a lot of people thought that they got insight they got revelation at night maybe in a vision or you know inventors have said I woke up in the middle of the night and it just came to me how to solve this problem how to build this machine how to invent a new thing one of the

great inventions of the last actually century before last now I forget if it was the cotton gin or the one or the other of those the man woke up in the middle of the night with the fully formed idea in his head and it was part of the beginning of the industrial revolution in America and when you read the biography of the inventor and I apologize I can't remember the details now I think it might have been Eli Whitney but one of those guys or the telegraph or something the guy literally woke up in the middle of the night and it just struck him I think I can build this and it just fueled the industrial revolution well people thought and you know a lot of times people wake up in the middle of the night and say oh you know I've got the I've got the great grand unified theory of the universe it all makes sense to me and they they try to write it down and then in the morning they go I can read it it's just gobbledygook but for millennia people have thought that sometimes insight comes at night God often came and revealed things at night so what Solomon is saying here is that whether it's in the day or whether it's in the night's sleep the eyes of this man this man who is just eating and drinking and being pleased in his labor he's not seeing he's not seeing the answer Solomon says I applied my heart to know wisdom and to see this answer being worked on the earth because it's not in the cause and effect of the wicked getting punished and the righteous getting blessed so I appealed to wisdom I took the wisdom route to try to see this answer in the earth because this short-sighted man in the day and in the night's sleep his eyes are not seeing it's not coming to his he's not seeing it this is the same thing he said earlier in the chapter isn't it people's hearts are filled up to do evil because they don't see any consequences in this life he's reiterating that here verse 17 and I saw remember now this is the difference between what Solomon sees and what the short-sighted man sees if I was going to title this lesson this morning if I was printing it in the bulletin which I may yet do one of these days I would title this more than meets the eye it is more than meets the eye there are things in this life that do not meet the eye of the short-sighted man isn't that what he's talking about in this whole last chapter that last half of chapter 8 it's more than meets the eye Solomon says I saw verse 17 all the work of God which he worked under the sun on account of which because of the way God has constructed life under the sun man will labor to seek and will not find and also if a wise one will speak so as to know he will not be able to find science philosophy the secular wisdom is not going to be able to find this either I've probably mentioned this to you before but it's the first thing that occurs to my mind in this context I saw as I was studying last night I had channel 13 on earlier and the Simon and Garfunkel concert from 20 years ago the concert in the park in New York came on and I've been aware of and gotten records and things of Paul Simon for a long time he is a would be classified as a poet he writes his own lyrics puts them to his own tunes all the songs you've ever heard Paul Simon sing and Simon and Garfunkel sing Paul Simon wrote 99% of those songs and if you look at the words look at the lyrics printed out they are poems and they don't make a lot of sense when you first hear them Patty was asking me what do the words mean to one or another of those songs and it doesn't make a whole lot of sense which song was that you were asking about yeah Mrs. Robinson whatever happened to Joe DiMaggio and on and on it's poetry it's designed for you to stop and think and in the poetic world in the artsy world people will look at that and say oh I can tell you what this means it's about the living on the edge Mrs.

Robinson is the mother of the gal that Dustin Hoffman is dating and she makes a play for her daughter's boyfriend if you've ever seen the movie *The Graduate* that's the movie for which the song *Mrs. Robinson* was written and if you know that story and here's Anne Bancroft you know tossing the bait reeling in the wine you've seen the poster her stocking leg is sticking out in front of Dustin Hoffman's saucer like eyes she's it's this thrill seeking thing you know hide it in a hiding place where no one ever goes you know put it in the pantry with your cupcakes because sure nobody ever goes looking for those type of thing well my point here is there are people and whether it is Whitman or Thoreau or old Eugene O'Neill *Long Day's Journey into Night* the playwrights the *Death of a Salesman* Arthur Miller any of the authors Shakespeare anybody you want to go to there are people who believe that these men because they are craftsmen in the area of words or they are craftsmen in the area of poetry or novels or short stories that they have got a deep insight into life and that when they speak there is a truth out there maybe you don't see it when you're looking around in the day maybe it doesn't come to you in the night sleep but when the wise speak you'll find it there if I could just figure out what Paul Simon is saying in *The Boxer* or in *Mrs. Robinson* or *For Emily Whenever I May Find Her* or any one of his other songs you know *Hearts and Bones* if I can figure out there is a it seems to be wise because it's kind of mysterious and you've got to study on it and what is it it's pseudo exegesis it's pseudo bible study instead of going to the scripture and meditating on that and figuring out what it says we've got humanly produced scripture and it is treated as inspired it is treated as a place where the fount of wisdom is bubbling and where the key to life can be found well take a look at the personal life of the people who write these things Paul Simon has been married and divorced more times than you can count he's a deeply unhappy man Eugene O'Neill what a tragedy if you ever study his life one of the greatest of American playwrights and the guy's personal life was a disaster look at the people who produce this they don't have the key to life they haven't got it figured out what is Solomon saying here if the wise one will speak so as to know he will not be able to find you can go to all of the philosophers you want you can go to Dr. Wayne Dyer on TV or you can go to Dr. Phil or you can go to any of the other people who get trotted across your TV screen as being founts of wisdom Susie Orman happiness through riches I mean what a bald faced travesty that is and she is worshipped and thought to be inspired as is Dyer and all these others Solomon says in 817 of Ecclesiastes even if the wise one speaks so as to know he will not be able to find either you don't find it in the daytime you don't find it in the night sleep you don't find it in the words of the wise he says and there should be no chapter break here I haven't decided where the chapter break should be but it certainly should not be here because chapter 9 verse 1 follows hard on the heels of 817 Solomon says I have given all of this to my heart it's kind of like data fed into the computer I've made these observations I've put them into the wisdom factory here that God put in my soul but what is it that Solomon found out we're going to see that when we come back from the break but one thing we've established in the first case here is there is a situation there are conditions that prevail in this life that don't give an answer people look in vain to try to figure out what is the meaning of life what is going on artsy people poets philosophers authors scholars scientists dreamers cult people all try to postulate an answer Solomon says you can look in the

daytime you can wake up in the middle of the night with a dream you can listen to the words of the wise you're not going to find this answer because it doesn't exist under the sun and God made it that way on purpose it forces you to raise your eyes beyond the material and beyond the mundane and beyond what is circumscribed by the realities of what you can see well he's going to tell us once again about this in the verses that follow but what does it mean to us we cannot remember evil company corrupts good morals corrupts good habits we keep company with the world we keep company with a culture that sees deep meaning in movies for crying out loud Hollywood movies people find meaning you know the thumbs up guys and all the other critics are talking about oh the deep meaning and what insight this director has and so on it's nonsense we know better but we keep company with this day after day and that constant company if we are not careful to keep company with believers with the word of God with the Holy Spirit and keep our minds refreshed and conformed to the image of the Savior we will fall unconsciously into this faulty thinking bad company will corrupt us we will wind up like these seeking people who never find the more we listen to our culture the more we're immersed in it the more we're affected by it the more we are going to be clueless there's no reason for it we have wisdom that surpasses the wisdom of Solomon available to us if we just meditate on it if we recall it to our mind if we make it the substance of our prayers and our thinking set our goals our priorities our values in its light there's no reason for us to be deflected there's no reason for us to be caught up in the faulty thinking that says I just don't see it happening in this life there must be something wrong well Solomon's going to tell us some more about this as we get into chapter 9 and that's where we'll resume after the break