

13 Better is a poor and a wise child than an old and foolish king, who will no more be admonished. 14 For out of prison he cometh to reign; whereas also he that is born in his kingdom becometh poor. 15 I considered all the living which walk under the sun, with **the second child that shall stand up in his stead**. 16 There is no end of all the people, even of all that have been before them: they also that come after shall not rejoice in him. Surely this also is vanity and vexation of spirit.

- We are never truly “ALONE”:

Isaiah 41:10 — Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

- God saw it not good that man be alone:

Genesis 2:18 — And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

But, without that in mind, what value is popularity? A day of fame? A moment of applause? As you will soon be replaced by the next thing.

- v. 14 Compare with the story of Joseph
- “The second child”
  - “It is the old story of worshipping the rising sun.” – GILL
  - “People are never long easy and satisfied; they are fond of changes.” – MHC

## Chapter 4 (The Study of the Social Evils Apart from Faith)

### Introduction

Power, Possessions, Popularity will not make it right. Only Jesus!

### I. The Oppressor and the Oppressed (Power)

1 So I returned, and considered all the oppressions that are done under the sun: and behold the tears of such as were oppressed, and they had no comforter; and on the side of their oppressors there was power; but they had no comforter. 2 Wherefore I praised the dead which are already dead more than the living which are yet alive. 3 Yea, better is he than both they, which hath not yet been, who hath not seen the evil work that is done under the sun.

- Power and authority does not always have to result in oppression.
- “Looks bad for those without the power” = vanity v.1
- “My life is hopeless, it would be better if I never lived.” vs. 2,3

2 Corinthians 1:24 — Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand. 1 Peter 5:3 — Neither as being lords over God’s heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. 2 Corinthians 4:5 — For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus’ sake.

1 Timothy 3:3 — Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;

## II. The Haves and the Have Nots (Possessions)

4 Again, I considered all travail, and every right work, that for this a man is envied of his neighbour. This is also vanity and vexation of spirit. 5 The fool foldeth his hands together, and eateth his own flesh. 6 Better is an handful with quietness, than both the hands full with travail and vexation of spirit.

- Is it good to be envied? v.4
- The Fool versus those industrious and with possessions ... v.5

**THE FOOL:** The man without aim or insight, leading a half brutish life, “folds his hands” in the attitude of laziness (Proverbs 6:10; Proverbs 24:33).

**EATS HIS MEAT:** Even he, with his limited desires, attains to the fruition of those desires, “eats his meat” and rejoices more than the wise and far-sighted who finds his work empty and unsatisfying. (Exodus 16:8; Exodus 21:28; Isaiah 22:13; Ezekiel 39:17)

Activity, diligence, and skill indeed bring success, but success is accompanied by sad results. Should we, then, sink into apathy, relinquish work, let things slide?

No, for the fool, the insensate, half-brutish man, doth this. The fool foldeth his hands together. The attitude expresses laziness and disinclination for active labor, like that of the sluggard in Proverbs 6:10.

Proverbs 6:10 — Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little

folding of the hands to sleep:

- (The Wall Street Journal, 2010) “The average net worth per person in America is **\$182,000.**”
- (2014 Credit Suisse survey) “Average net worth in America is **\$301,000!**”
- Retirement age average networth (not including home equity) “\$45,000”
- How much money do you need to be wealthy? Now you need an average of \$2.4 million to be considered a wealthy person in America, according to the survey by Charles Schwab, which surveyed Americans aged 21 to 75. ... Only about 10% of Americans are worth \$1 million or more.

We find meaning in our activity IN JESUS! (“As unto the Lord”)

- 1 Timothy 5:8; Colossians 3:17,23; Ephesians 6:7; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Revelations 22:10

## III. The Alone and the Popular (Popularity)

7 Then I returned, and I saw vanity under the sun. 8 There is one alone, and there is not a second; yea, he hath neither child nor brother: yet is there no end of all his labour; neither is his eye satisfied with riches; neither saith he, For whom do I labour, and bereave my soul of good? This is also vanity, yea, it is a sore travail. 9 Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. 10 For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. 11 Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone? 12 And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.