

For What [How] Knowest Thou

I. Introduction:

A. Solomon, as an inspired man of God, expressed a rather depressing view of life (**Ecclesiastes 1:2, Ecclesiastes 1:14, Ecclesiastes 2:11, Ecclesiastes 2:17, Ecclesiastes 6:11, and Ecclesiastes 12:8**).

1. A whole study of Solomon reveals he pursued things to satisfy the flesh to an horrific outcome (**I Kings 11:1-11**).
2. He also lived under the carnal law (**Romans 8:1-3**) that did not have the hope that we do in Christ (**Acts 13:38-39 and I Peter 1:3**).

B. While we ought to be realist, is it beneficial to always be so negative (**Philippians 2:14-16 and Philippians 4:6-9**)?

1. People who walk about sad and depressed have not thought about the effects that such a demeanor has on their spiritual and physical health (**Proverbs 12:25, Proverbs 15:13, and II Corinthians 7:10**).
2. Besides setting your affections on things above (**Psalms 16:11 and Colossians 3:1-4**), understand that it is POSSIBLE that we can live in such a manner that we can love life and see good days (**I Peter 3:8-11**).

II. Body: **I Corinthians 7:12-16**

A. Paul's counsel was/is not easily dismissible as just another opinion of a mortal man (**I Corinthians 7:39-40**).

1. Paul acknowledged, in this context, that he was interjecting his personal judgment in various areas (**I Corinthians 7:6-11; 7:25-28**).
2. Consider the source and the evidence that he is not seeking to gain followers of his own will (**I Corinthians 3:1-7 and I Corinthians 4:1-6**; cf. **Acts 14:8-18**).
3. Paul sought to use his authority to edify, not destroy (**II Corinthians 10:8**).
4. Having said those things, wouldn't it have been wise for the Corinthians to adhere to his counsel (**Proverbs 1:5, Proverbs 12:15, and Proverbs 19:20**)?

B. What happens when you test the advice Paul gave (**I Thessalonians 5:21**)?

1. Is there a chance the unbelieving spouse can be converted by their faithful husband or wife (**I Peter 3:1-7**)?
2. Can you lawfully put away a spouse because he or she chooses not to be a believer (**Matthew 5:31-32 and Mark 10:1-12**)?

C. The significant point that I want to draw from this is, the unforeseeable can certainly occur (**Ecclesiastes 9:11-12**).

1. Sometimes, even in the most dire of circumstances, something comes about "by chance" (**Luke 10:30-35**).

2. This applies spiritually. Things can get tough. We cannot become “weary in well doing” (**Galatians 6:9**, **II Thessalonians 3:13**, and **Hebrews 12:1-3**).

3. It is possible to miss out on some potentially good things in this life if we predetermine failure before something that has a chance to succeed even comes about (**Exodus 6:1-9**).

III. Conclusion: Be careful not to destroy something that COULD, by chance, work out for good; because you just can't see it now. Sometimes things turn out better than we might expect (**Ruth 1:1-18; 2:1-3; 4:13**). NOTE: *In **Ruth 2:3** “light on” means: “to light upon (chiefly by accident)...” (Strong's # 7136).