

Things We Cannot Know (But Plant Your Seed Anyway) **Ecclesiastes 11:5-9**

0.0 Introduction

- 0.1 A story from 45 years ago today (Bicentennial Sunday – July 4, 1976),
- 0.2 Wise people acknowledge their limits – of strength, understanding, capability
- 0.3 Yet “Everyone by nature desires to know” (Aristotle) – and see Ecc.3:11

1.0 First Round of Advice: Reckon With This Awesome God – v.5b

- 1.1 We have limits in mysteries of nature (v.5), of results/productivity in crops (v.6),
and by implication much more as well
- 1.2 What kind of individual creates such extraordinary things?

2.0 Second Round of Advice: Capitalize on Your Assets & Opportunities – vv.6-9

- 2.1 Temptation to be passive: we see how big life is & freeze sometimes
- 2.2 “Sow your seed in the morning” = first order of the day
- 2.3 Learn to enjoy (v.7,8,9 – with balance & common sense)
- 2.4 Special opportunities during one’s younger years (v.9a)

3.0 Third Round of Advice: Remember Ageing, Disappointment, Judgment – vv.6b,8b,9b

- 3.1 “Shock lines” – balancing thoughts (e.g. ‘enjoy...enjoy...enjoy...judgment’)
- 3.2 Ageing and work-failures are natural consequences of the fall (Gen.3)
- 3.3 All people, for their behavior & motives, are subject to God’s assessment (Heb.9:27)
- 3.4 And remember grace, love, forgiveness of God in Christ (Ac.13:38; Col.1:14)

4.0 *And* Some Additional Advice 😊

- 4.1 The unknown is no excuse for laziness – so, ‘plant *your* seed’ (11:6)
- 4.2 Hunger to know is a tremendous motivator – so, feed yourself.
- 4.3 Help your children learn natural consequences

Next week (July 11) – Remember Your Creator (Ecc.12:1-7)