

## Remember Your Life Without Christ!

➤ = next PowerPoint slide

### ➤ Intro:

- Solomon, Ec., broad theme, life is vain without God
  - Solomon and others teach us the value of remembering the vanity of life without God (Christ), so we don't fall back into sin
- lesson: Remember Your Life Without Christ! – **Rom. 3:23; 6:23** – vain, lost, empty

### ➤ Paul never forgot who he was without Christ – used it to teach others, motivate himself

- **Acts 9:1-2; Phil. 3:4-6** Paul's life without Christ – emphasize bad
- - **1 Cor. 15:9** persecutor of Christ, least of the apostles – actions toward brethren = toward Christ (Matt. 25)
  - **Eph. 3:8** least of the saints
  - **1 Tim. 1:15** foremost of sinners
- application:
  - it's helpful to remember what life was (would be) without Christ
  - how would you classify your life, in view of your past life in sin – cf. Paul, above

### ➤ Paul reminded others of their life without Christ – used it to teach them

- **1 Cor. 6:9-11** Paul reminded brethren of sin some in previous to becoming Christians
  - do you remind yourself, remember who you were, what life like without Christ
- - **Eph. 2:12** former condition: separated from Christ – lost, doomed to damnation
  - remember, realize, former condition, reflected in way live, way interact with others
- - **Eph. 5:8** former condition: darkness
  - remember, realize, former condition, reflected in way live, way interact with others

### ➤ What's life like for us (Christians), without Christ

- we live in darkness, separated from Christ
  - **Eph. 2:12; 5:8** see above - info about below – despair, lonely, unfulfilled, empty, lost
- - our thinking is distorted, we live in sin
  - **Eph. 4:17-19** futility of mind, darkened understanding, excluded from eternal life, hardness of heart, callous, given self over to sensuality
- - unable to control body with mind, without strength from Christ (rf - **Eph. 4:17-19**)
  - **Col. 2:20-23** man-made religion, no value, controlling self
- - **Rom. 7:14-15, 19-20, 23-24; 8:1-2** (Paul's life without Christ) no freedom from sin
- - worse off than if had never obeyed the gospel
  - **2 Pet. 2:20-22** worse than if had never become Christian - **illus.: dog, sow**, describe grossness
- application: empty, unfulfilled, foolish, carnal, unhappy, sad, lost in sin

➤ **Value: constant awareness of life without Christ**

-constant awareness of life with Christ **helps us maintain our zeal**

- **1 Cor. 15:9-10** makes us zealous - lights a fire under – try harder, work harder

- **illus.:** maybe in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, stole eraser and gave to friend, boy asked if I had taken, lied, remember little about 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, this event reminds me how much I need God, makes me want to do better

➤ - **Rom. 12:11** not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit

- **????:** Why do some Christians become less zealous, the longer they're Christians?

➤ - constant awareness of life with Christ **helps us remain faithful**

- **Ec. Solomon** reflects on his life without God – teach, motivate, inspire

- **Ec. 12:13-14** constantly reminded what's important – not deceived

- true happiness and fulfillment only comes from faithfully serving God

- **not deceived that a sinful life is more fun, fulfilling** – Solomon's warning

- **saying: you never know what you have till it's gone** (Julissa)

- **illus.:** Holiday Switches: x-mas movie, poor lady who wants to be rich has a dream, trades places with a rich lady by crawling through a dryer, has a miserable life, wants her old life back with husband and children, what she thought would make her happy made her sad, once she got her old life back she realized how happy she was

- **illus.:** things people give up and wish they hadn't

- **God:** to satisfy friends and family (peer pressure)

- **God and church:** for recreation, social status, more \$

- **family:** for career and \$

- **grass isn't greener on other side of the fence – sin – even though Satan wants to convince you otherwise**

➤ - constant awareness of life with Christ **helps us be compassionate toward people lost in sin**

- **Matt. 9:35-38** Jesus, compassion for the lost and spiritual depressed

- **illus.:** some congregations have bad reputations of being holier than thou, look down noses at lost, unsympathetic toward people in sin, think they're doing everything right and everyone else is doing everything wrong – why?

- **How would our attitude and actions change toward the lost, if we saw ourselves as we were without Christ? – saw ourselves as needing Jesus as much as them**

➤ **Summary / Inv.**

- **application:** if we're like Paul, we'll be mindful of our lives without Christ, motivating ourselves and others to obey God - zeal, faithful, compassionate toward lost

- **Remember Your Life Without Christ**

- **inv.** turn from the life of sin to God, today