

Wise Words in an Unpredictable World

ECCLESIASTES 11:1-6

KEY WORD: WISDOM

NOVEMBER 20, 2016

**BIG IDEA: GOD CAN BE TRUSTED IN UNCERTAIN TIMES.
LIFE IS AN ADVENTURE OF FAITH**

Ecclesiastes 11:1-6

- 1 Cast your bread upon the waters,
for you will find it after many days.
- 2 Give a portion to seven, or even to eight,
for you know not what disaster may happen on earth.
- 3 If the clouds are full of rain,
they empty themselves on the earth,
and if a tree falls to the south or to the north,
in the place where the tree falls, there it will lie.

4 He who observes the wind will not sow,
and he who regards the clouds will not reap.

5 As you do not know the way the spirit comes to the bones
in the womb of a woman with child, so you do not know
the work of God who makes everything.

6 In the morning sow your seed, and at evening withhold
not your hand, for you do not know which will prosper,
this or that, or whether both alike will be good.



ADVICE

It's Everywhere!

1. Be Wise with Your Resources (v.1)

**1 Cast your bread upon the waters,
for you will find it after many days.**

- Maritime commerce
- Spreading out investments
- Hospitality

Principle: Steward the resources God has given you.

Use your resources wisely as the Lord allows.

2. Be Diverse In Your Investments (v.2)

2 Give a portion to seven, or even to eight, for you know not what disaster may happen on earth.

- Having a diverse stream of income
- Having a diversity of investments

Principle: Use what God has given you

Life is an adventure. Invest in the Kingdom of God and send it on ahead.

3. God is in Control (v. 3)

**3 If the clouds are full of rain,
they empty themselves on the earth,
and if a tree falls to the south or to the north,
in the place where the tree falls, there it will lie.**

Nature Declares: God is sovereign!



Over Weather



Over Wind

December 23, 2007

Coast Range



Over Natural Disasters

New Zealand
Earthquake

Last Sunday



Over Tsunami's
March, 11, 2011



Even Where a
Tree Lands in
the Forest

3. God is in Control (v. 3)

**3 If the clouds are full of rain,
they empty themselves on the earth,
and if a tree falls to the south or to the north,
in the place where the tree falls, there it will lie.**

- Nature Declares: God is sovereign!
- God is in control of everything
- Proverbs 3:5-6
- God is in control and can be trusted in the situation you are in right now.

4. Don't Be Overcautious (v. 4)

**He who observes the wind will not sow,
and he who regards the clouds will not reap.**



5. The Spirit and the Work of God (v. 5)

- **As you do not know the way the spirit comes to the bones in the womb of a woman with child, so you do not know the work of God who makes everything.**
 - Another clear statement about God's sovereignty
 - We are called to trust an all wise God

6. A Call to Diligence (v. 6)

In the morning sow your seed, and at evening withhold not your hand, for you do not know which will prosper, this or that, or whether both alike will be good.

- Be diligent in God's appointed tasks
- Luke 19:13 – “Engage in business until I come”
- Be diligent in the season of life you are in
- The big idea: God can be trusted in uncertain times, and life is an adventure of faith.

Psalms 16:5-6

**5 The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot.**

**6 The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.**

Five Reminders

- Christian, the Lord himself is your portion.
- The Lord himself is your cup of blessing.
- He gives you everything you need, not want, but need.
- His plans and purposes for you are pleasant, not easy, but pleasant.
- You have a beautiful inheritance, eternal life!

