



Lessons from the Life of Solomon:

Celebrating God's Provision?

Or Living on Cheap Grace?

(1 Kgs 10:1-9; cf. 2 Cor 9:11)

Study Notes Handout: Week Eight

King Solomon was greater in riches and wisdom than all the other kings of the earth. The whole world sought audience with Solomon to hear the wisdom God had put in his heart... Solomon accumulated chariots and horses... the King made silver as common in Jerusalem as stones... 1 Kings 10:23f

Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless...I have seen a grievous evil under the sun: wealth hoarded to the harm of its owner... Naked a man comes from his mother's womb, and as he comes, so he departs. Eccl 5:10f

Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions. Luke 12:15

Cheap grace is the deadly enemy of our Church... The essence of grace, we suppose, is that the account has been paid in advance: and, because it has been paid, everything can be had for nothing... Cheap grace means the justification of sin without justification of the sinner... (But) grace is costly...it cost God the life of His Son. - Dietrich Bonhoeffer, The Cost of Discipleship, p. 43f

An Introductory word from Pastor Terry:

We come to a critical moment in our study of the life of Solomon. In Chs. 9 - 11 the author tries to give an account to the reader of how this mighty man has fallen. Though it appears that he has held it together over a 40 year reign, it becomes evident from the narrative that God's gifts of wealth and wisdom were squandered by Solomon. We must ask why and how in the weeks remaining.

On this day as we celebrate God's provision for our Church family, the lessons we find in Solomon warn us to steward the wisdom and wealth God has given us in a way that shows we understand the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for our sake He became poor, so that we, through His poverty, might become rich (2 Cor. 8:9).

1. The Depth and Duty of Solomon's Religious Experience (1 Kgs 9:25; 2 Chron 8:11 - 15)

2. The Duplicity and Distraction of Solomon's Religious Experience (1 Kgs 10:4 - 5, 10 - 29)

3. The Distinguishing Element of our Religious Experience (Eccl. 12:1, 6. 13-14; 2 Cor. 8:9)

- Whose Name and whose Fame do we live for?



Personal Study Notes

Focus: 1 Kings 10

The Queen of Sheba Visits Solomon (10:1-13)

Solomon's Wealth (10:14-29)

Personal Prayer Points from this Passage:

Questions or Insights for Discussion:

1) How is Solomon's life a paradox? What is one of the most important lessons you have taken from our study so far?

2) How do we protect ourselves from having the kind of religious experience that Solomon had? How does a cheap understanding of grace hinder our discipleship?