

The Greek is translated patience.

Hebrews 12:1 (cont'd)

...the race that is set before us.

May I say to you, the key ingredient in solution to depression and solution to the trauma in your life is *hupomeno*. And before you can have patience you've got to surrender and accept it as from God's hand and that's patience.

You've got a choice. You can take pride and say "Why me? Why this?" and get bitter and resentful and just make everybody else pay the price for you being all out of sorts because God's dealing with you. Or you can *hupomeno*. You can put yourself under the stress and learn what God's trying to teach you.

You will never manifest patience until you have submitted to that thorn that's in your flesh. Until you face that problem head on.

Hebrews 10:36

You have need of patience after you've done the will God that you might receive the promise.

What is the key to patience?

1. Surrender—it is turning yourself over to this and to God to work in your life.
2. What can I learn from this?—that’s a big step.
3. How can I grow from this experience?—another big step.
4. How can I bear fruit in the lives of others because of what I’m going through?—another big step.
5. God, I’m concerned about how you can get glory out of these circumstances that I’m facing.

Isn’t that fantastic? That’s patience.

“You have need of it” the writer of the book of Hebrews says.

1. I’ve got to submit in order to get it—surrender.

But then:

2. What can I learn?
3. How can I grow?
4. How can I bear fruit?
5. How can You get glory from it?

Then you have come to patience.

Now I'm going to give you four words. These four words all start with "P." Here is the solution to trauma so you don't end up in depression, ok:

1. Put down the word PRIDE because invariably your pride is hurt. That's just a normal human response like falling off a log. If we're just being honest today, we're saying "God why this?" or "Why now?" or "Why me?"
2. Then put down the word PATIENCE because I think in the process, if you're a believer, you're going to bounce off of that thing and you're going to begin to accept it.

The level of your maturity will be from PRIDE to PATIENCE—how soon you submit.

3. Then third, put down the word PURPOSE because from pride to patience, you will begin to discover God's purpose in that.

And then finally:

4. Put down the word PEACE because when you get to that point, man you are at rest.

Isaiah 26:3

Thou will keep him in perfect peace his mind is stayed on thee because he trusts me.

No matter how difficult it is, you have passed from pride to patience to purpose to peace and you're at rest in what God is allowing to happen in your heart.

And that's why James 1 says when you're going through trial, James 1:2-3 says:

James 1:2-3

Deep it pure joy and let patience have its perfect work.

Let the process go on so that you can be a better person as a result of it.

Verse 9.

v. 9 Do not be quickly provoked in your spirit, for anger resides in the lap of fools.

You see what he says? When it comes, don't get ticked off. And especially, don't let the sun go down on your wrath (Ephesians 5). Because if you get mad at God and then you sleep on it, you're going to get madder than ever.

You guys know that with your women, don't you? You get ticked off at them for something and then you go to bed and you sleep on it and then you're more ticked off in the morning than you were and so communication is broken down. And then you're really at opposite poles and you've got a mess to

clean up.

The quickest thing to do is to just suck it up and go for it and say “Ok honey, I made a mistake.” That’s the hardest thing in the world to say. “I’m sorry. I made a mistake. I popped off. Forgive me!” Get it dealt with before the sun goes down or man you’re in trouble.

It gets worse. And what he says here is don’t get “quickly provoked in your spirit, for anger resides in the lap of the fool.”

I remember reading David Augsburger’s book.

(The Freedom of Forgiveness by David Augsburger)

He told about a guy who wandered into a car on the train and sat down and in the reserved seat of somebody else. He didn’t even know it. Then the conductor came in to take the tickets and he just bawled this guy out. Just chewed him out and told him to get out of that car. One of the other guys was standing by and said “Why didn’t you bust that guy in the mouth?” He says “Oh no. If that man can stand himself all of his life, sure I can take it for a couple of minutes.”

(source unknown)

Somebody has said:

When you are in the right, you can afford to keep your temper. When you are in the wrong, you can’t afford to lose it.

(source unknown)

You know? Be open to God about it.

I'm telling you, temper is usually a cover for a rebellious heart in a crisis. And invariably, temper will come out in verbiage that is not very much fun to listen to. And your only covering a rebellious heart when you get ticked off and you lash out at God in that situation.

Now, look at verse 10. I love this! Did you know this was in the Bible? Huh? I didn't before I read it.

v.10 Do not say, “Why were the old days better than these?” For it is not wise to ask such questions.

As soon as you ask that question, “Where are the good old days?” you drive yourself into depression.

I mean you're saying “Gosh! Those days were better than these! I'm on the skids hitting for the fence! It's worse today than it was yesterday.”

Can I tell you something? There's one thing you've got to learn in your life and that is never to look back. I mean hind sight is 20/20 all the time.

And why look back?

Paul's got it—Philippians 3:12.

Philippians 3:13

Forgetting those things which are behind, press on to those things which are in front.

Don't look back! Get excited about the future.

I think it was Winston Churchill who said:

When the past quarrels with the present, there can be no future.

(source unknown)

And when you're always crying over spilt milk and saying "Oh man, if I'd have just done it this way." And you're indulging all this self-pity about "Oh I had just done that" or "If I'd just married him" or "If I'd just done this" or "If I had just taken that job." You've got all these IF's.

No wonder you're in the pits. Why don't you get up tomorrow and say "This is the first day of the rest of my life. And man am I excited about it!"

Postmortems are always going to lead you to depression and they won't change a single thing as far as the outcome is concerned.

I put Philippians 3:13 there and Hebrews 12:2 alongside of that tenth verse.

Don't say "Where were the old days?" or "Why were the old days better than these?"

Hebrews 12:2

Fixing your eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, despising the shame and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Verse 11.

v.11 Wisdom, like an inheritance, is a good thing and benefits those who see the sun.

"Wisdom, like an inheritance, is a good thing and it benefits those who see the sun."

Behind every cloud there is a silver lining. The sun's still shining, it's just dark for you right now!

Wisdom is your inheritance! When you come to God, according to James chapter 1, you're supposed to ask Him for wisdom to relate to your trial. James 1:5 says:

James 1:5

If any of you lack wisdom [that's in the context of trial] let him ask of God who gives to all men liberally and

upbraideth not, and it shall be given him.

You cannot come and ask for wisdom until you turn it over and you submit and surrender to Him. And when you do that, then you're on the road to being able—in the context of the trial—to relate to it.

That's why Solomon prayed for a discerning heart. He's the guy that wrote this. And that's why I believe that he finally actually came out of the whole thing.

Verse 12.

v.12 Wisdom is a shelter as money is a shelter, but the advantage of knowledge is this: that wisdom preserves the life of its possessor.

And money can't ever do that.

You just surrender and accept before you can ever ask, and the wisdom will be yours.

v.13 Consider what God has done: Who can straighten what he has made crooked?

One of the things that's been pulsating through these first 7 or 8 chapters is been that little statement:

“this is his lot” or

“there’s a time and a season for every activity”

“what God’s done,”

“you can’t make it crooked if its straight” and

“you can’t make it straight if its crooked.”

You’ve got to accept it because God did it that way.

I put Psalm 37:23, 24:

Psalm 37:23, 24

The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord,
and He directs his way;
even if he falls, he shall not be utterly cast down,
for the Lord upholds him with His hand.

Your steps are ordered my friend. Your life is also known to Him. He’s got the days of your life in His little red appointment book on His desk. And when the time comes for the Executive Director of the Universe to say “turn out the lights the party’s over,” friend you are going to go. And you aren’t going to have anything to say about it.

You can’t extend it. You can’t shorten it. God knows exactly when it’s going to happen. And you can’t straighten it or change it.

OK, what is wisdom then? In that kind of situation?

If you want to be a happy, fulfilled person, get out of the pits of your depression, get out of the midst of your crisis, then wisdom involves cooperation.

How many times have you told your kids “If you would just do what I said, that would solve all the problems!”

I’ve told my kids a hundred times in their growing up “I have only one purpose in life and that’s to bless you and make you happy and hope that you will be a successful adult. Now if you can argue with my purpose then you can be disobedient.”

And I hear God saying “Anderson, I’ve got the same plans for you. Now let me have the reigns of your life, let me drive it like I want to, let me put you where I want you to be, and let me do in you and through you what I want to do. Just turn it over to me babe and let me have it because I know what’s best for you.”

And I’ve got to realize that the words I’ve just said to my kids are coming right back to eat my lunch.

Verse 14.

v.14 When times are good, be happy; but when times are bad, consider: God has made the one as well as the other. Therefore, a man cannot discover anything about his future.

“When times are good, be happy; but when times are bad, consider: God has made the one as well as the other. Therefore, a man cannot discover anything about his future.”

Some people will never accept that. They will not accept the fact that God can bring trauma into your life to teach you something.

Alright, how am I supposed to relate? Here I am sitting here tonight, man the market's up a jillion points yesterday and I'm all excited. I'm happy! I'm fulfilled! Really thrilled. Times are good, go ahead and be happy.

Alright, the market drops out of sight. Clear to the bottom. Lost everything I had in the crazy thing. Pet dog died, kids have got the flu, all the people are coming to Bible study, I'm sitting here in the pits. What am I supposed to do now?

“Consider.”

“...consider: God made one as well as the other.”

When it gets rough, start to consider what God's trying to teach you. That's all he's saying.

I would always pray Psalm 139:23, 24:

Psalm 139:23, 24

Search me, O God, and know my heart;

try me and know my thoughts....
then lead me in the way everlasting.

“Consider”—God works all things together for God—even the bad and the good.

So why is He allowing this trauma and this trial to come into my life? That’s the way to really get on with it and learn what He’s trying to teach you and to get out of the pits and quit feeling sorry for yourself.

Verse 15.

v.15 In this meaningless life of mine I have seen both of these: a righteous man perishing in his righteousness, and a wicked man living long in his wickedness.

“In this meaningless life of mine I have seen both of these: a righteous man perishing in his righteousness, and a wicked man living long in his wickedness.”

You know, that must really hassle him.

Have you ever wondered why a righteous man dies early? The Lord just can’t stand to be separated from him any longer.

Enoch walked with God and the Lord took him. Man, one night the Lord just says “Enoch, come on. This is too rich. I just can’t leave you down there any longer. I want to be with

you.”

Why does He let a wicked man live so long? It’s because the Lord doesn’t want him to die without Jesus Christ. He’s going to give him all the years that He can possibly give him to give him a chance to respond. And many guys live to be old reprobates, 70-80-90 years old, and who never respond. But it’s the Lord’s mercies that he’s not consumed.

2 Peter 3:9

...the Lord is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

So some of these old reprobates live long, long lives—not because they were living according to God’s plan but because God graciously gave them many, many opportunities to respond but they just flicked it in. They continued to live that way. I think that’s the solution.

Verse 16.

v.16 Do not be overrighteous, neither be overwise—why destroy yourself?

“Do not be overrighteous, neither be overwise—why destroy yourself?”

Well that kind of shook you up. “Don’t be overrighteous.”

Well you know these guys that are overrighteous. I mean, they're the self-righteous turkeys that don't drink and don't dance and don't smoke and don't go to the movies and don't go with the girls that do. You know and they're proud to tell you about it. They'll tell you how much of their income they give to the church and they tell you how they sacrifice here and there.

He says don't be overrighteous like that where you're always talking about self-righteousness.

“...neither be overwise”

Don't start to try to anticipate how God's going to do it. You get out there in front and try to anticipate it and put on automatic pilot and I'll tell you, you're going to have a crash on the freeway.

Some days are going to be gravel and some days are going to be stone. As [John] Denver said: “Life ain't no easy freeway, there's some gravel on the ground.” You're going to find it!

“...why destroy yourself?”

v.17 Do not be overwicked, and do not be a fool—why die before your time?

“Do not be overwicked, and do not be a fool—why die before your time?”

v.18 It is good to grasp the one and not let go of the other. The man who fears God will avoid all [extremes].

“It is good to grasp the one and not let go of the other. The man who fears God will avoid all [extremes].”

And don't turn the page.

Some of you are new tonight and you've got ready to turn the page because you read the Bible too fast.

And that's the unpardonable sin.

I wanted you just to underline that last phrase because that is the **KEY THOUGHT**.

He's saying:

“The man who fears God will avoid all [extremes].”

Don't go way over here in this direction and then come way back over here in this direction.

Realize that you're **WELL**-doing in **EVIL**-doing may be **OVER**-doing and it'll end up being your **UNDOING**.

In essence, that's what he's saying.

Turn the page for the rest of the story.

Boy there's some great verses here to finish so if you checked it in on me and fell asleep, come back now. Just let me wrap it up. OK?

Verse 19.

v.19 Wisdom makes one wise man more powerful than ten rulers in a city.

“Wisdom makes one wise man more powerful than ten rulers in a city.”

v.20 There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins.

“There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins.”

Boy isn't that great comfort?

Because Solomon says that:

“There is not a righteous man on the earth who does what is right and never sins.”

It means that we have a need for a righteousness which is ours in Jesus Christ. And I want to talk about that for just a minute.

In Romans chapter 3 it says:

Romans 3:10, 23

As it is written, there is none righteous, no not even one. There is none who understands...all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

The only hope for us is a perfect righteousness provided for us in the person of Jesus Christ.

Our righteousness's are like filthy rags in God's sight. That which is highly esteemed among men is abomination unto the sight of God. It's got rejection stamped on it and friend you're not going to make it if you think that you're going to be righteous enough to be accepted by God.

There is no way you're going to make it. You know what God's righteous standard is? Let me put it in baseball language.

In God's standard it's batting a 1,000.

Now you know some of those guys, we just got through the World Series—some of those guys, pretty good hitters, hit 200, 250. They're standing up there once in a while striking out, aren't they? They get 1 in 4 times at the plate. And there's some of those guys—pretty good hitters—hit up in the 300s, you know. They're getting 1 in 3.

Oh, there might be that unique hitter who hits somewhere in

the 400s. That would be incredible. George Brett nearly did it for a season. But can you realize that he was, you know, striking out once every two times at least and a little bit more

God's saying, "Friend, when you get to the plate, if you're going to fulfill My righteousness, you've got to hit every time."

And you and I know we haven't.

Romans 3:23

all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

How are you going to solve your dilemma? You're going to have to reach out and take One who has perfectly fulfilled the law and batted a 1,000 and died for your broken law, that's all. And will provide, in fact, His righteousness.

This verse is so neat because here it is in the midst of all of this trauma, he's beginning to say there's not one person in the world who is righteous and who never sins.

Now don't you love verse 21?

v.21 Do not pay attention to every word people say, or you may hear your servant cursing you—

"Do not pay attention to every word people say, or you may hear your servant cursing you—"

When you're in the crisis, you face all kinds of criticism. People are picking at you. And I'll tell you some of the most self-righteous people are the Christians who when they find you're in trouble, have got 17 warnings, 6 sermons, 2 songs, a poem and a long index finger buried in your chest saying "My, my. What you must have done to deserve what you're going through!" And boy it brings comfort.

And then they put their little band-aid: "God works all things together for good to them that love God, to those who are called according to His purpose!" And we go away and man we are in the pits. You feel isolated.

You've got to say "Sticks and stones may hurt my bones, but words will never hurt me!"

Don't be vulnerable to what people are saying about you.

Women especially get this. They've got this innate sense of insecurity when somebody says something.

For instance, here's a man and a wife sitting at the table. Man, we've just had a fabulous steak dinner. And I'm saying to them as they're sitting there "Where did you get that meat?" And the guy says "At the Safeway." And she says "Why, what's wrong with it?"

I mean, it's just the way the woman is.

It was Paxton Hood who says:

When we advance in life, we find that the tongue of man creates nearly all the mischief in the world.
(source unknown)

Someone has said:

If you ever knew what one said about the other, there wouldn't be two friends left in the world.
(source unknown)

Probably true.

“You might even hear your servant cursing you.”

Verse 22.

v.22 for you know in your heart that many times you yourself have cursed others.

“for you know in your heart that many times you yourself have cursed others.”

v.23 All this I tested by wisdom and I said, “I am determined to be wise”—but this was beyond me.

“All this I tested by wisdom and I said, “I am determined to be wise”—but this was beyond me.”

He's just saying “I cannot understand life.”

Boy, when you come to that point you're on the way.

v.24 Whatever wisdom may be, it is far off and most profound—who can discover it?

“Whatever wisdom may be, it is far off and most profound—who can discover it?”

v.25 So I turned my mind to understand, to investigate and to search out wisdom and the scheme of things and to understand the stupidity of wickedness and the madness of folly.

“So I turned my mind to understand, to investigate and to search out wisdom and the scheme of things and to understand the stupidity of wickedness and the madness of folly.”

v.26 I find more bitter than death the woman who is a snare, whose heart is a trap and whose hands are chains. The man who pleases God will escape her, but the sinner she will ensnare.

“I find more bitter than death the woman who is a snare, whose heart is a trap and whose hands are chains. The man who pleases God will escape from her, but the sinner she will ensnare.”

You look at that and say “How in the world did Solomon get a

fast woman in here?” I mean, that’s what it looks like, isn’t it?

Well in the book of Proverbs, when Solomon is talking about wisdom of this world he always talks about the prostitute or the woman. He epitomizes earthly wisdom as the fast, loose woman.

I’ve got to say that gals because of what he’s going to say here in just a minute. I mean, it’s got to be wisdom because if it’s the females, we’re really going to put you down. So you gals better be pretty excited for the interpretation of the passage.

Where is he? He says: “I’m trying to find the scheme of things I’m trying to see this overriding principal that’s going to get me out of this and help me understand things.”

And then he says: “You know, the world has got all kinds of wisdom to offer. I mean humanism, evolution, philosophies, speculations, all kinds of natural explanations for why we’re here and how life is. And you can almost take your pick! I mean, there are cults all over the place that you can go to try to find your truth.”

He says that’s like seductive women. To try to draw you away from the truth that is yours in God.

I put James 3:15-18 here. It says:

James 3:15-18

This wisdom is not which comes down from above but its earthly, natural, and demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exists, there is disorder in every evil thing. But the wisdom from above is pure, then peaceable, and gentle, and reasonable, full of mercy, and good fruits...

Verse 27.

v.27 “Look,” says the Teacher, “this is what I have discovered: Adding one thing to another to discover the scheme of things—

“Look,’ says the Teacher, ‘this is what I have discovered: Adding one thing to another to discover the scheme of things—”

See, he’s still with the subject.

v.28 while I was still searching but not finding—I found one [upright] man among a thousand, but not one [upright] woman among them all.

See! You’ve got to get that straight! I mean, you’d be in trouble!

Solomon said:

“I found one [upright] man”—I found Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph. I found some great patriarchs who had the truth but I

didn't find one woman.

Do you realize there is not one female who's responsible for writing any one book of the Bible?

Well, yes, he did. But that came after Solomon.

So in his mind, when he's thinking of it—and it's not women/female. He's speaking of wisdom.

He's saying "in all these explanations, I'm beginning to find truth in the men of scripture but I'm not finding truth in the philosophies and the explanations of the natural man."

He said that does not bring the solution to the problem.

Verse 29—this is so neat.

v.29 This only have I found: God made mankind upright, but men have gone in search of many schemes."

Evolution—Humanism—Fatalism—you name it.

8:v. 1 Who is like the wise man? Who knows the explanation of things? Wisdom brightens a man's face and changes its hard appearance.

"Who is like the wise man? Who knows the explanation of things? Wisdom brightens a man's face and changes its hard

appearance.”

v. 2 Obey the king’s command, I say, because you took an oath before God.

The key is learning to be submissive to authority here, then you’ll get your wisdom.

v. 3 Do not be in a hurry to leave the king’s presence. Do not stand up for a bad cause, for he will do whatever he pleases.

That’s the Lord!

“he will do whatever he pleases.”

Don’t fight Him! There are times and seasons.

v. 4 Since a king’s word is supreme, who can say to him, “What are you doing?”

v. 5 Whoever obeys his command will come to no harm, and the wise heart will know the proper time and procedure.

v. 6 For there is a proper time and procedure for every matter, though a man’s misery weighs heavily upon him.

Why is a man in misery?

I'm saying a man's misery is in measure to his resistance to God's sovereign purpose. And that's what leads to the crisis. And that's what he's saying here.

You know, just submit!

One little kid was told to go stand in the corner because of something he'd done and he wouldn't do it. He just wouldn't do it.

Finally the teacher just took him right over there and he says "Sit in the corner for a while."

And he says "Well, I may be sitting on the outside but I'm standing up on the inside."

You know, I mean he's just totally rebellious to the situation.

I can remember here a couple of three years ago I started losing my eyesight. I had worn contacts forever and didn't realize that salty sweat and racquetball and everything else and running was distorting my corneas with these hard contact lenses. And finally the doctor says "Anderson, we can no longer leave you beautiful. You're going to have to wear bifocals."

I said "Over my dead body will I wear those dumb things." I said "Old people wear those."

He says “You are maturing Anderson.”

You know I went home with these crazy things and I put them in the drawer. I wasn't going to wear them. I was just going to stand up on the outside and sit down on the inside. Read my books when I got close, in the study by myself. Put those crazy things on.

But I realized, here's a guy who's trained to know. My vision—he wants to help me. He wants to solve the problem and I was really having a problem.

Now I got a choice. Am I going to submit to what he says? Or am I just going to do it myself? And finally I realized that I needed to do what he told me to do.

You know someone of the writers in *Happiness Is a Choice* gives you the solution to depression.

Today you're sitting here and you're saying “I can't do this” and “I can't do that.” Some of you are saying “I just can't receive Christ.” Some of you are saying “I just can't give up the situation. I just can't turn it over.” And the key to the solution of your depression is to change all of your CAN'Ts to WON'Ts.

I won't surrender to Jesus Christ.

I won't give up that relationship.

I won't do that.

Then you've got a true picture of where you're really coming from.

Basically it's your pride deep inside that's been hurt. And until you turn it over, friend, you're going to continue to be in trouble.

And verse 7 says:

v. 7 Since no man knows the future, who can tell him what is to come?

v. 8 No man has power over the wind to contain it; so no one has power over the day of his death. As no one is discharged in time of war, so wickedness will not release those who practice it.

v. 9 All this I saw, as I applied my mind to everything done under the sun. There is a time when a man lords it over others to his own hurt.

v. 10 Then too, I saw the wicked buried—those who used to come and go from the holy place and receive praise in the city where they did this. This too is meaningless.

v. 11 When the sentence for a crime is not quickly carried out, the hearts of the people are filled with schemes to do wrong.

Boy we know that now. You can plead insanity and get away with it.

v. 12 Although a wicked man commits a hundred crimes and still lives a long time, I know that it will go better with God-fearing men, who are reverent before God.

Boy that is coming to the point of submission to authority.

And I put Psalm 1 there:

Psalm 1:1, 2 & 4

Blessed is the man
that walks not in the counsel of the ungodly...
His delight is in the law of the Law,
and in his law he meditates day and night. ...
The wicked are not so.
They are like the chaff,
the wind drives away.

They're here for a little time. There's going to be accountability for those who are reverent before God.

v. 13 Yet because the wicked do not fear God, it will not go well with them, and their days will not lengthen like a shadow.

Boy what statements!

v. 14 There is something else meaningless that occurs on earth: righteous men who get what the wicked deserve, and wicked men who get what the righteous deserve. This too, I say, is meaningless.

You know the guy who spoke at the funeral for little George the IV—3 ½. [He] stood up and made the following statement.

“God is not fair.”

And I thought, I don't like that. And then he explained it.

God is not fair, but God is always kind. God never has to be fair in our sight.

And he used the parable of the guy who came to get somebody to work for him early in the morning. And they went out into the field. Then he came back at the third hour and found some more people to go work for him. They went to work for him the third hour and then some more guys came to work for him—it's in Matthew chapter 20—in the sixth hour and then somebody else came to work for him in the ninth hour. And somebody came to work for him in the eleventh hour, just before the day was over. And when he paid them, he gave

them all the same thing. And they accused him of not being fair.

But God is God and He can do what He wants to do. And who are we to say how He spends His fund and how He orders our lives and how He works out the details. From our perspective it looks like God isn't fair. But God is kind and He'll always fulfill His promises and bless those who will submit to His way of doing things.

Verse 15

v. 15 So I commend the enjoyment of life, because nothing is better for a man under the sun than to eat and drink and be glad. Then joy will accompany him in his work all the days of the life God has given him under the sun.

“...the life that God has given him.”

v. 16 When I applied my mind to know wisdom and to observe man's labor on earth—his eyes not seeing sleep day or night—

v. 17 then I saw all that God has done. No one can comprehend what goes on under the sun. Despite all his efforts to search it out, man cannot discover its meaning. Even if a wise man claims he knows, he cannot really comprehend it.

Boy he is there! He's saying God is the author of happiness and joy. As I submit myself and turn loose of these things which I'm resisting in my life, I come out of the pit of depression and I begin to know real joy.

I got 10 lessons out of this study. Let me just mention them to you. You're not going to be able to copy them all. If you want get them after the study. Alright, here we go.

Lesson #1: At the bottom of all depression is unbelief.

At the bottom of all depression is unbelief.

Lesson #2: It's better to talk to self than to have self talk to you.

Lesson #3: Patience is better than pride.

And I just put "Pride—Patience—Purpose—Peace" there.

Lesson #4: Don't get quickly provoked in your spirit.

Lesson #5: Never say "Where are the good old days?"

Lesson #6: The man who fears God will avoid all extremes.

Lesson #7: Don't pay attention to every word that people say.

Lesson #8: God made man upright but man's gone in search of

many schemes.

God made you to have a heart for Him but we go looking for answers “in broken cisterns that will hold no water,” Jeremiah says.

Next one:

Lesson #9: Wisdom brightens a man’s face and changes its hard appearance.

Lesson #10: A man’s misery weighs heavily upon him.

And the last one:

Lesson #11: No one can comprehend what goes on under the sun.

You’ve just got to trust God that He knows what’s best.

If you’re here today without a relationship to Jesus Christ, I sure would love to talk to you but that’s between you and Him. I would never embarrass you.

There’s a little booklet on the table called “How to Have a Happy and Meaningful Life.” It tells you how to invite Christ into your life. And I’d like for you to take that.

I want to just tell you, whether you’re here without Christ or you’re here knowing Christ, there’s one solution to your

problems. And that's to submit to His authority in the midst of the trial and allow Him to be God. To do that prepares you for all of life.

I was sharing with our crew in the Sermon on the Mount today about Virginia dying of cancer. Virginia came to the day where she knew she was not going to get better and she says: "Today I've let you go"—referring to her husband and her two children. She says "That's the hardest thing I've ever done in my life but I have turned you over to God and I know you're safe."

And on the last day that she lived on earth, she said this:

"I want you now to turn loose of me and surrender me."

And perhaps God is just saying "Hey, come on. There's no better time than right now."

He's knocking at your door. "Just turn it over to Me and watch Me what I can do if you'll just give it to Me."

Whether it's a marriage, whether it's business, whether it's your heart—because you've never come to know Christ—you'd allow Him to become your Savior.

Don't go out of here today just passing all of this off.

Do something about it. You're held accountable for the fact that you've been here and you've studied in the Word in the book of Ecclesiastes.

6. What did Solomon turn his mind to do in verse 25?

7. What did he find, according to verse 29?

8. What does Solomon commend as a result of all of his research, according to chapter 8:15?

9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: At the bottom of all depression is unbelief. It is better to talk to self than have self talk to you.

LESSON #2: Patience is better than pride.

LESSON #3: Do not be quickly provoked in your spirit.

LESSON #4: Never say, “Where are the good old days?”

LESSON #5: The man who fears God will avoid all extremes.

LESSON #6: Do not pay attention to every word that people say.

LESSON #7: God has made man upright but men have gone in search of many schemes.

LESSON #8: Wisdom brightens a man’s face and changes its hard appearance.

LESSON #9: A man’s misery weighs heavily upon him.

LESSON #10: No one can comprehend what goes on under the sun.