You Do Your Part! Ecclesiastes 11:1-6

- Do you ever wonder if your various prayers are answered?
- When you share the gospel with someone, in the grand scheme of things, does it matter?
- When you teach a Bible class on Sundays or Wednesdays, are there any lasting results?
- Do you ever wonder if what little you and I do for God and His church really matters in the big picture?

- Occasionally you can catch a glimpse of what God does with someone's life when you see God use somebody (Our brother Mark Sims was the first Sims to be baptized in his family)
- We should therefore continue to pray, serve, and try to do the right thing consistently, knowing that our labor is not in vain (1 Corinthians 15:58)
 - So Don't Let Your <u>Lack</u> Of Knowledge Of God's Purposes Paralyze You!
 - (Your Work For God Boldly Lays The Foundation For Others!)

1 Corinthians 3:10-11

Ecclesiastes 11:1-2

"Cast your bread upon the waters, For you will find it after many days. Give a serving to seven and also to eight, For you do not know what evil will be on the earth."

Several Principles are Here:

- 1. Share your goods with plenty of people who need your help, because your generosity may return to you one day
- 2. "Don't put all of your eggs in one basket." Diversify your portfolio or investments. Who knows what catastrophes may occur (Bernie Madoff, "made off" with a lot of people's money; know your financial consultant as well)

- Invest your time and talents in several areas in God's family. You can't out-give God (2 Corinthians 9:6-9)
- Invest yourself in more than one ministry.
 The parable of the talents encourages us to develop
 - more skills for God's glory.

The time may come when you can't do "your favorite one."

Remember The Results Of Inaction

"If the clouds are full of rain, They empty themselves upon the earth; And if a tree falls to the south or the north, In the place where the tree falls, there it shall lie.

He who observes the wind will not sow, And he who regards the clouds will not reap."

Ecclesiastes 11:3-4

- If we don't' take any action and get involved, we will never do any productive work to yield a harvest.
- There is nothing a farmer can do about when it will rain or what the weather will do (rain, wind , falling trees).
- But what he can control is, **<u>if</u>** and **<u>when</u>** he will sow!
- The writer is attacking the person who just stands around and waits for **ideal conditions** to provide for himself and others.

This Church Building And The Learning Center Building Would Never Have Been Built If We Had Waited Until The Ideal Conditions had come about!

Rather Than Waiting With Inaction

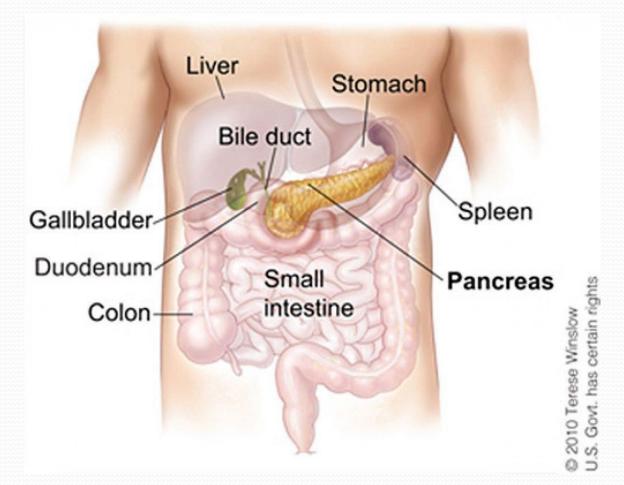
- Don't just stand and look at the obstacles and difficulties in the way (Peter is the only man—other than Jesus himself—that we know who walked on water, Mathew 14:29)
- Don't let outward distractions take the place of spiritual formation that is already present

Recognize The Providence Of God In Your Life, Verse 5

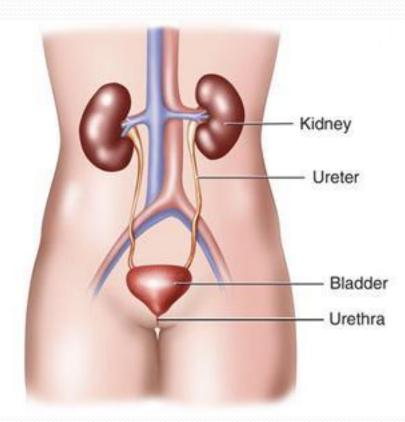
"As you do not know what is the way of the wind, Or how bones grow in the womb of her who is with child, So you do not know the works of God who makes everything."

- The Preacher basically says our knowledge of God is limited
- We know that God is the author of life, and we have learned the mechanics of some of the processes of God in man, but we don't know how life is created (ex. the baby in the womb)

Diabetes and the Pancreas



One Treatment for Diabetes is to Use the Kidneys to Lower Blood Sugar!



- What God does in our spiritual lives is no less mysterious.
- Why does he sometimes take something away that we hoped to keep?
- Why does he give us something that we never wanted?
- Why do many of our prayers go unanswered?
- Why do many of our dreams go unfulfilled?

- What made Jesus willing to suffer and die for our sins, bearing our guilt and shame on the cross? Isaiah 53:5
- Why did God choose you and me to bear His name as He did the apostle Paul? Acts 9:15
- Who are we to be "joint heirs with Jesus Christ?" Romans 8:17

Use Every Opportunity To Work For God! (Verse 6)

"In the morning sow your seed, And in the evening do not withhold your hand; For you do not know which will prosper, Either this or that, Or whether both alike will be good."

- Do not use the fact that God is sovereign and over everything to do nothing (ex. "the Lord will provide; or the Lord will save whom he wills")
- Yes, God is sovereign, and the fact that he is, and therefore commands us to use every opportunity to work, is why we OBEY!
 - (Sunday night vs. Sunday morning information)

The Plan Of Salvation

Hear the Gospel Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins Acts 17:30

Confess Christ Acts 8:37

Be Baptized Acts 8:38