

## **Sermon: The Day of Adversity (Ecc. 7.13-14)**

### **§1. Introduction**

1. Theme: Preparing for the day of adversity.
2. Doctrine: God sends adversity in order to wean us of our idols, make us realize the vanity of this world, and cling unto Christ alone as our chief joy.
3. Application: From our Text, we will see how must (1) meditate upon divine providence, discerning the work of God in it; (2) rejoice in earthly goods only as God's gifts; and (3) let go of all earthly prosperity, hopes, and dreams, and cling to Christ alone.

### **§2. Exposition**

1. Summary of Context:
2. Verse-by-verse Exposition:

**13 Consider the work of God: for who can make that straight, which he hath made crooked?**

**14 In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: God also hath set the one over against the other, to the end that man should find nothing after him:**

- Times of prosperity and adversity are set over against each other just as day and night are.
- This is because this world is in an estate of sin and misery, yet in wrath, God remembers mercy, and does good to all.
- Prosperity comes to teach us of the goodness and kindness of God: "Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness." (Acts 14.17)
- Reasons adversity comes:
  - a. To teach us that all things in this life are vain and passing away. 1Cor. 7.29-31.
  - b. To wean us of our idols and dependence on our own strength.

- c. To teach us the sweetness of Christ which can only truly be learned experientially in the midst of bitterness of soul.
- d. To test our faith and refine it. Mat. 13.20-21; Isa. 48.10.
- e. To teach us to be content in Christ in every state. Phil. 4.11-13.

### **§3. Uses**

1. Meditate upon divine providence, discerning the work of God in it
2. Rejoice in earthly goods only as God's gifts.
3. Let go of all earthly prosperity, hopes, and dreams, and cling to Christ alone.