WHATSOEVER THY HAND FINDETH TO DO  
Ecclesiastes 9:7-10

INTRODUCTION:
1. The book of Ecclesiastes was most likely written by Solomon and has within it many familiar passages of Scripture.
   A. Perhaps the most familiar statement is found in chapter 12 verse 8, where the writer concludes by saying, “all is vanity.”
2. Our lesson today will be from another passage that is probably familiar to many here.
   A. That Scripture being Ecclesiastes 9:7-10, and especially verse 10.

BODY:
1. WE NEED TO DO THE BEST WE CAN
   A. From verse 10 we want to try to find something that will benefit us in our service to the Lord.
   B. This passage is basically pointing out that although we may not have total control over our fate, we should not just sit down and not do anything, and allow fate to rule.
      1. The point is that we must do our part, to the best of our ability, in whatever life has to offer.
      2. Undoubtedly this is a lesson, in and of itself, that is badly needed in all walks of life today.
      3. The emphasis is in whatever state you find yourself do the best you can with it.
   C. We need to give the Lord’s work our best shot, because it won’t be long until there will come a time when we will be unable to do that.
2. SEPTUAGINT (THE GREEK TRANSLATION OF THE OT) TRANSLATED THIS PASSAGE THIS WAY:
   A. “All things whatsoever thy hand shall find to do, do it as thy power is.”
   B. Note this did not say, pick out that which you are best at and give it you’re all, and leave everything else alone.
3. WE SPEND A LOT OF TIME TALKING ABOUT DEVELOPING OUR TALENTS
   A. In doing this it seems that a large number of people in the church have spent their entire lives searching for a talent to refine.
      1. But they have not found one.
      2. And tragically, may never find one, thus their life is a life of no service to God.
      3. Perhaps if we had done with all our power that which we found to do, we might have already settled the talent hunt, and became fruitful for the Lord.
         A. So many times we attempt to get off the hook when it comes to serving by claiming that this or that is not one of our talents.
         1. We seem to think that this eliminates us from having to serve anywhere if we have no talents.
4. CHRISTIANITY HAS BECOME A RELIGION OF SPECIALISTS
   A. Recently, I ran across a bulletin that listed the word Minister in it the following
ways:
2. These things need to be done, and I am not saying they shouldn’t!
   A. But by making them all “Special Ministries,” I am afraid we have contributed to the old “clergy-laity” system in the church.
   B. Too many feel that if they aren’t trained in these areas they are unable to perform the work.

5. WHAT WE NEED TO SEE IS THAT THERE IS MUCH WORK TO DO
   A. The “fields” are indeed “white unto harvest” - John 4:35.
   B. Whenever we all role up our sleeves and take part in the work of the church, then it will accomplish that which it set out to do - Matthew 25:31-46.
      1. But so long as we think that the work of the church is that which is to be done by the “staff” then it will never get done.
   C. We must realize that there will come a time when we will no longer be able to work - John 9:4; Ecclesiastes 9:10.
   D. We further need to be careful that we do not overlook opportunities to serve while looking for our talents - Galatians 6:10.
      1. In this passage Paul spoke of opportunities and not talents.
         A. I think some times we cant see the trees for the forest when it comes to service.

6. WE NEED TO TAKE A SERIOUS LOOK AT OUR LIVES AND OUR SERVICE
   A. God has work for us - Matthew 9:37, 38; 28:19.
      1. How many opportunities to serve pass us by while we are looking for our talents?
   B. Jesus took fishermen and made them fishers of men - Matthew 4:18, 19.
      1. God is willing and able to make “fishers of men” out of us if we will let Him - Luke 9:23; Matthew 10:38.

CONCLUSION:
1. We must understand our responsibility in this area.
   A. Where there is opportunity, there is responsibility.
      1. We have been given the opportunity to perform the work that has been set before us.
         A. The question is, will we?
   2. Whatever our hands find to do in His kingdom we should seek to perform those duties to the best of our ability instead of looking for a way escape that responsibility - Luke 17:10.