An Objective View of the Rat Race

Eccl. 9:11-18
Ever get the feeling that life is violin solo and your wearing oven mitts?
Ever feel like a hamster running in one of those caged wheels?
Ever feel like everybody else is living – but you are just surviving?
Ever find yourself sitting in church... thinking about tomorrow’s worries?
If you are on the “fast track”...

Maybe it’s time to “slow down?”
We need to be God’s examples, God’s role models of faithful contentment.
But you say...

- When I slow down, I feel guilty
- I’m afraid others are getting ahead of me
- I feel unproductive and valueless

What should I do?
One of the Great “Lost” Themes of the Bible . . .

“Be still and know that I am God…” (Ps. 46:10)

“Cease striving (NAS)
“Let Go of Your Concerns” (GWV)
“Calm down” (CEV)
“Slow Me Down Lord”

Slow me down, Lord. Ease the pounding of my heart by quieting my mind.

Steady my hurried pace with a vision of the Eternal reach of time.

Give me, amid the confusion of the day the calmness of the everlasting hills...

Remind me each day that the race is NOT to the swift; that there is more to life than increasing speed.

   Let me look upward to the towering Oak and KNOW that it grew great and strong BECAUSE it grew slowly and well.”

Orin L. Crain
King Solomon wrote;

“I again saw under the sun that the race is not to the swift and the battle is not to the warriors, and neither is bread to the wise nor wealth to the discerning nor favor to men of ability; for time and chance overtake them all.”

Eccl. 9:11
“Moreover, man does not know his time: like fish caught in a treacherous net and birds trapped in a snare, so the sons of men are ensnared at an evil time when it suddenly falls on them.”

Eccl. 9:12
“Also this I came to see as wisdom under the sun, and it impressed me.”

Eccl. 9:13
“There was a small city with few men in it and a great king came to it, surrounded it and constructed large siegeworks against it. ...”

Eccl. 9:14
“(But) there was found in it a poor WISE man and he delivered the city BY HIS WIDOM…”

Eccl. 9:15
The race is **NOT** to the swift...

Satan – “MORE, MORE, MORE”
“So I said, “Wisdom is better than strength...”

But the wisdom of the poor man is despised and his words are not heeded.”

Eccl. 9:16
Strength says—
“"If I work HARDER, and acquire MORE, and go FASTER, and get MORE CLEVER and MORE SKILLFUL = then I will be a success!"

Really? At What?
“The words of the wise heard in quietness are better than the shouting of a ruler among fools. Wisdom is better than weapons of war...”

Eccl. 9:17–18a
Let’s get serious.
Your life is in serious trouble...
God’s Response...

Don’t Believe the world’s LIES!

LISTEN to ME.
“...but one sinner destroys much good.”

Eccl. 9:18
God has a **better** plan for your life.  
**OBEY HIS WILL TODAY!**