

Ecclesiastes

LEARNING TO LIVE LIFE
AS A GIFT NOT GAIN

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CHAPTER 7:15 – 29

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➤ Ecclesiastes 6:12 For ***who knows what is good for man in life***, all the days of his vain (frustrating and puzzling) life which he passes like a shadow?

Who can tell a man what will happen after him under the sun?

➤ Ecclesiastes 7:1 **A good name is better than precious ointment, And the day of death than the day of one's birth;**

➤ Ecclesiastes 7:14 In the **day of prosperity** be joyful, But in the **day of adversity** consider: Surely **God has appointed the one as well as the other**, So that man can find out nothing *that will come* after him

Finishing Well (a Good Name) Requires:

Humility

**A. Humility trusts God's Sovereign
administration of justice
(v.v. 15-18)**

➤ Ecclesiastes 7:15–18 I have seen everything in my days of vanity: There is **a just *man* who perishes in his righteousness**, And there is **a wicked *man* who prolongs *life* in his wickedness**.

¹⁶ Do not be overly righteous, Nor be overly wise: Why should you destroy yourself?

¹⁷ Do not be overly wicked, Nor be foolish: Why should you die before your time?

¹⁸ ***It is good that you grasp this***, And also not remove your hand from the other; For he who fears God will escape them all.

- Ecclesiastes 7:15 I have seen everything in my days of vanity: There is **a just *man* who perishes in his righteousness,** And there is **a wicked *man* who prolongs *life* in his wickedness.**

***1. Why do we struggle to trust God's
Sovereignty over our days of adversity?***

➤ Ecclesiastes 7:16–17 (KJV)

¹⁶Be not righteous over much; neither make thyself over wise: why shouldst thou destroy thyself?

¹⁷Be not over much wicked, neither be thou foolish: why shouldst thou die before thy time?

➤ Ecclesiastes 7:16–17 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Do not be **overly righteous**, Nor be **overly wise**: Why should you destroy yourself?

¹⁷ Do not be overly wicked, Nor be foolish: Why should you die before your time?

2. In light of our struggle, what advice does Solomon have for us?

➤ Ecclesiastes 7:16–17

McCabe: ¹⁶Do not be **naively righteous** and do not be **unrealistically wise**. *Why cause yourself to be astonished?*

¹⁷Do not be **presumptuously wicked** and do **not be a fool**. Why die sooner than expected?

➤ Psalm 73:2–3

² But as for me, **my feet had almost stumbled**; My steps had nearly slipped.

³ For I *was* envious of the boastful,
When I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

➤ Psalm 73:13 **Surely I have cleansed my heart *in vain***, And washed my hands in innocence.

➤ Psalm 73:16–17

¹⁶ When I thought *how to understand this*, It was too painful for me—

¹⁷ **Until I went into the sanctuary of God; *Then I understood their end?***

- Ecclesiastes 7:17 : Do not be **presumptuously wicked** and **do not be a fool**. Why die sooner than expected? (McCabe)
- Ecclesiastes 7:18 : It is **good that you should grasp the one**, without letting go of the other; for **the one who fears God follows both of them**. (McCabe)

**B. Humility values wisdom while
maintaining faith-filled dependence
(v.v. 19-24)**

1. Wisdom's Strength (v. 19)

- Ecclesiastes 7:19 **Wisdom strengthens** the wise **More than ten rulers** of the city.
- McCabe: **Wisdom makes the wise man stronger** than ten officials in the city.

- Proverbs 3:13 Happy (blessed, enjoying the favor of God) **is the man who finds wisdom**, And the man *who* gains understanding.
- Proverbs 8:11 For **wisdom is better than rubies**, **And all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her (WISDOM)**.

2. Wisdom's Necessity (v.v. 20-22)

➤ Ecclesiastes 7:20–22 For **there is not a just man on earth who does good And does not sin.**

²¹ Also do not take to heart everything people say, Lest you hear your servant cursing you.

²² **For many times, also, your own heart has known That even you have cursed others.**

- 1 John 1:8 If **we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves**, and the truth is not in us.
- 1 John 1:10 **If we say that we have not sinned**, we make Him a liar, and **His word is not in us**

3. Wisdom's Supply (v.v. 23-24)

➤ Ecclesiastes 7:23–24

²³ **All this I have proved by wisdom. I said, “I will be wise”; But it was far from me.**

²⁴ As for that which is far off and exceedingly deep, **Who can find it out?**

- Ecclesiastes 2:26 For **God gives wisdom and knowledge and joy to a man who *is* good in His sight.**
- James 1:5 If any of you **lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives** to all liberally and without reproach, and **it will be given to him.**

**C. Humility lives for the pleasure of God
not the approval of men
(v.v. 25-29)**

➤ Ecclesiastes 7:25 I applied my heart
to know, to search and seek out
wisdom and the reason *of things*,
To know the wickedness of folly,
Even of foolishness *and* madness.

➤ Ecclesiastes 7:26 And I find **more bitter than death** the woman whose heart *is* snares and nets, whose hands *are* fetters. **He who pleases God** shall escape from her, but the sinner shall be trapped by her.

➤ Ecclesiastes 7:27-28

²⁷“Here is what I have found,” says the Preacher, “*Adding* one thing to the other to find out the reason,

²⁸ Which **my soul still seeks but I cannot find**: One man among a thousand I have found, but a woman among all these I have not found.”

➤ Ecclesiastes 7:29

“Truly, this only I have found: That God made man upright, But they have sought out many schemes.”