

# Ecclesiastes

LEARNING TO LIVE LIFE  
AS A GIFT NOT GAIN

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CHAPTER 6:10 -- 7:14

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I. Keep your eye on the Prize –  
Live to finish well

➤ Ecclesiastes 6:10–11

<sup>10</sup> Whatever one is, he has been named already, For it is known that he *is* man; And **he cannot contend with Him who is mightier than he.** <sup>11</sup> Since there are many things that increase vanity, ***How is man the better?***

➤ McCabe's Translation:

<sup>10</sup> Whatever exists has already been named, and is what man has been known; for **no one can argue against one who is stronger than he.** <sup>11</sup> For there are many words that increase confusion. ***What then is the advantage for man?***

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?

# **A. The Prize Worth Pursuing**

Ecclesiastes 7:1 & 7:14

- 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.

- **Ephesians 2:10** For we are **His workmanship**, **created** in Christ Jesus **for good works**, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.
- **Philippians 2:13** for it is **God who works in you** both to will and **to do for *His* good pleasure**.
- **Colossians 1:10** that you may **walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every good work** and increasing in the knowledge of God.

**B. The Pathway We Must Travel  
In Order To Obtain The Prize**

# **1. The Way Of Wisdom Meditates On The Brevity Of Life**

**Ecclesiastes 7:2-4**

## ➤ Ecclesiastes 7:2–4

<sup>2</sup> **Better** to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting, for that *is* the end of all men; And **the living will take *it* to heart.**

<sup>3</sup> **Sorrow *is* better than laughter,** for by a sad countenance **the heart is made better.**

<sup>4</sup> The heart of **the wise** *is* in the house of mourning, but the heart of fools *is* in the house of mirth.

- Psalm 119:67 Before I was **afflicted** I went astray, But **now I keep Your word.**
- Psalm 119:71 ***It is good for me*** that I have been **afflicted**, That I may learn Your statutes

➤ Ecclesiastes 7:4

The **heart of the wise** *is* in **the house of mourning**, But the heart of fools *is* in the house of mirth.

## **2. The Way of Wisdom HONORS God In All Circumstances**

**Ecclesiastes 7:5-10**

*a) We Honor God By Welcoming Wise Counsel – v.v. 5-6*

➤ Ecclesiastes 7:5–6

<sup>5</sup> *It is* **better to hear the rebuke of the wise** than for a man to hear the song of fools.

<sup>6</sup> For like the crackling of thorns under a pot, so *is* the laughter of the fool. This also is vanity.

***b) We Honor God By Forsaking The Allurement Of  
Temporal Gain – v. 7***

➤ **Ecclesiastes 7:7**

**Surely oppression destroys a wise *man's*  
reason, and a bribe debases the heart.**

*c) We honor God with persevering patience – v.v. 8-9.*

➤ Ecclesiastes 7:8–9

**<sup>8</sup>The end of a thing *is* better than its beginning; The patient in spirit *is* better than the proud in spirit.**

<sup>9</sup> Do not hasten in your spirit to be angry,  
For anger rests in the bosom of fools.

*d) We Honor God By Living For Him In The Present– v. 10.*

➤ Ecclesiastes 7:10

Do not say, “**Why were the former days better than these?**” For you do not inquire wisely concerning this.

# **3. The Way Of Wisdom Is More Valuable Than Wealth**

Ecclesiastes 7:11-12

➤ Ecclesiastes 7:11–12

<sup>7</sup> **Wisdom *is good*** with an inheritance,  
and profitable to those who see the sun.

<sup>12</sup> For wisdom *is* a defense *as money is* a  
defense, but the excellence of knowledge *is*  
*that* **wisdom gives life** to those who have it.

# **4. The Way Of Wisdom Trusts The Unchanging Character Of God**

**Ecclesiastes 7:13-14**

## ➤ Ecclesiastes 7:13–14

<sup>13</sup> **Consider the work of God**; For who can make straight what He has made crooked?

<sup>14</sup> **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. (man cannot discover what the future holds).