

# Ecclesiastes

## Chapters 7 & 8

### I. Chapter 7

#### A. The remedies against vanity – Death to self. (Ecc 7:1-6)

1. Here in section one of chapter 7 we see that Solomon is teaching that to avoid vanity we must know:
  - a. Honesty is better than wealth including precious ointment.
  - b. We learn more from sorrow than happiness.
  - c. If we die to ourselves and listen to wise people who rebuke us is far better than fools that agree with us, but are not really a help.
  - d. Funny little phrase “crackling of thorns under a pot” If you build a campfire using thorny wood (like dead rose bush) it burns fast and noisy but does not make heat for long– just like a fool’s statements are noisy but not long lasting or meaningful.

#### B. The remedies against vanity – \_\_\_\_\_ . (Ecc 7:7-10)

1. Proverbs teaches that hasty decisions lead to poverty.
2. Note what verse 9 says – anger rests in the bosom of fools.
  - e. Think about it – are you one who is easily angered?
  - f. Do you dwell on things that make you angry?
  - g. Do people see you as one who is often angry?

#### B. The remedies against vanity – Get Wisdom. (Ecc 7:11-22)

1. Wisdom better than a big inheritance.
2. Wisdom does give you life – it shelters you from many storms in life.
  - a. Wise people do not fall into the same traps as fools.
  - b. Wise more often maximize the good outcomes of good situations.
  - c. Wise more often minimize the bad outcomes of bad situations.
3. Verses 13-14 Have wisdom – know that you can’t fight with what God has done or what God allows to happen.
  - a. Never forget that \_\_\_\_\_. He allows trials, and can change or stop them at any time.
4. Verse 18 – Solomon tips his hand to the final conclusion to Ecclesiastes – “for he that feareth God shall come forth of them all”.
  - a. Fearing God and learning about God and His ways is wisdom.

- b. The wisdom of this world leads to vanity – emptiness.
- c. The wisdom of God to fulfillment and success.

C. The Difficulty of Wisdom. (Ecc 7:23-29)

- 1. Verses 23-25 Solomon originally thought he could make himself wise and happy (independent of God) by discovering knowledge by his own work, but he failed miserably.
- 2. Verse 26 this woman is the wicked woman – the harlot Solomon references consistently throughout Proverbs – The Woman of false doctrine... that leads us away from God and to spiritual death.
- 3. The only way to true wisdom is through a correct relationship with God. If we are to be right with God, we must escape from her.

## II. Chapter 8

A. Keep the \_\_\_\_\_ – (Ecc 8:1-9)

- 1. This is the continuation of the thoughts of Chapter 7 – The wise man is one who fears and follows God.
- 2. We are to follow and pattern our lives after THE wise man – Jesus Christ. (John 1:1-14)
- 3. Oath of God – Kings swore an oath when they took the throne – just like we do when we inaugurate our presidents. (David in 1 Cron 11:3, Solomon in 1Cron 29:24, Ezek 17:16-18).
- 4. V 5 No Evil thing – No punishment – Like a Christian. (Rom 8:1)

B. Those Who Fear God \_\_\_\_\_ . (Ecc 8:10-13)

- 1. Solomon now admits that vengeance often does come slowly, but it does come surly from God! There is no escaping the ultimate judgment.
- 2. God will judge every person and every work.
- 3. V 11 shows why our criminal justice system is so horrible at deterring crime – It takes so long to deliver the punishment.

C. Man Cannot Know God's Ways. (Ecc 8:14-17)

- 1. Here Solomon finally admits defeat. He wasted his life trying to be wise and now admits that he cannot find it. All wisdom is in the hands of God.
- 2. He then returns to the theme of enjoy what God has given to man here on earth, but now it is more with an attitude of submission to God the King and Creator, when he says “beholding all the work of God”.