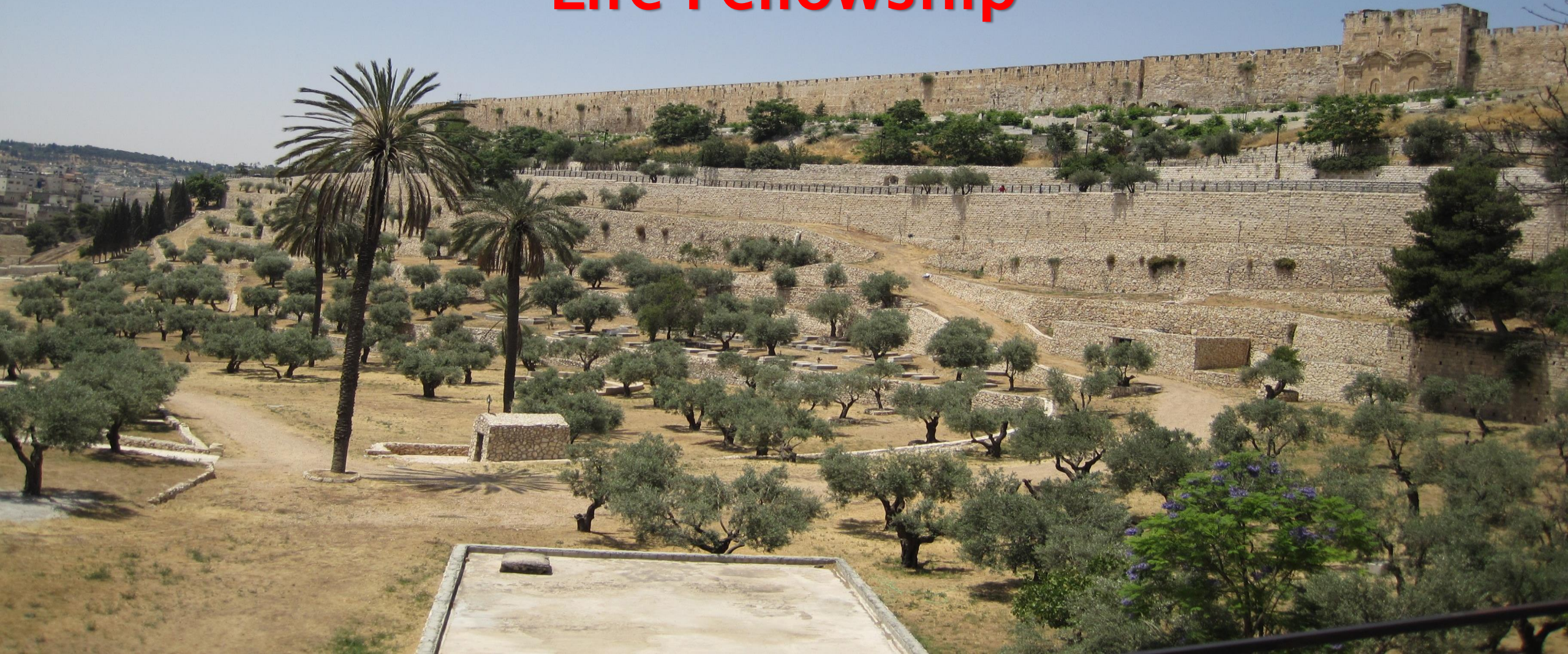


The Book of Ecclesiastes

Life Fellowship





Ecclesiastes Chapter 7

A. The remedies against vanity – Death to self

Ecc 7:1 A good name *is* better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth.

Ecc 7:2 *It is* 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 lay *it* to his heart.

Ecc 7:3 Sorrow *is* better than laughter: for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better.

Ecc 7:4 The heart of the wise *is* in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools *is* in the house of mirth.

Ecc 7:5 *It is* better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools.

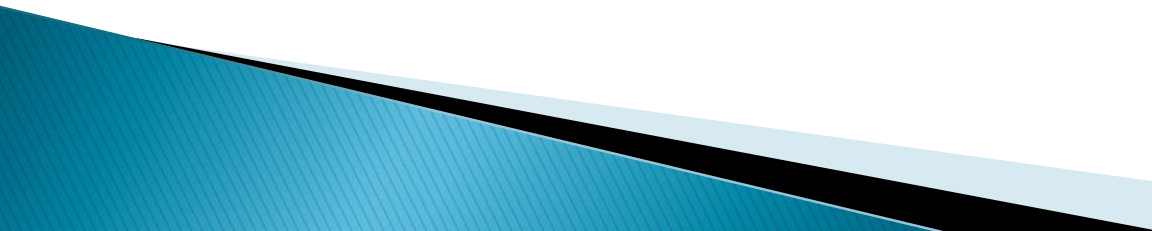
Ecc 7:6 For as the crackling of thorns under a pot, so *is* the laughter of the fool: this also *is* vanity.

Honesty is better than wealth including precious ointment.

We learn more from sorrow than happiness.

If we die to ourselves and listen to wise people who rebuke us, it is far better than fools that agree with us, but are not really a help.

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 – Have Patience.

Ecc 7:7 Surely oppression maketh a wise man mad; and a gift destroyeth the heart.

Ecc 7:8 Better *is* the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: *and* the patient in spirit *is* better than the proud in spirit.

Ecc 7:9 Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools.

Ecc 7:10 Say not thou, What is *the cause* that the former days were better than these? for thou dost not enquire wisely concerning this.

Proverbs teaches that hasty decisions lead to poverty

Note what verse 9 says...

.....anger rests in the **bosom of FOOLS!**

- Are you one who is easily angered?
- Do you dwell on things that make you angry?
- Do people see you as one who is often angry?



C. The remedies against vanity – Get Wisdom

Ecc 7:11 Wisdom *is* good with an inheritance: and *by it there is* profit to them that see the sun.

Ecc 7:12 For wisdom *is* a defence, *and* money *is* a defence: but the excellency of knowledge *is, that* wisdom giveth life to them that have it.

Ecc 7:13 Consider the work of God: for who can make *that* straight, which he hath made crooked?

Ecc 7:14 In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: God also hath set the one over against the other, to the end that man should find nothing after him.

Ecc 7:15 *All things* have I seen in the days of my vanity: there is a just *man* that perisheth in his righteousness, and there is a wicked *man* that prolongeth *his life* in his wickedness.

Ecc 7:16 Be not righteous over much; neither make thyself over wise: why shouldest thou destroy thyself?

Ecc 7:17 Be not over much wicked, neither be thou foolish: why shouldest thou die before thy time?

Ecc 7:18 *It is* good that thou shouldest take hold of this; yea, also from this withdraw not thine hand: for he that feareth God shall come forth of them all.


Ecc 7:19 Wisdom strengtheneth the wise more than ten mighty *men* which are in the city.

Ecc 7:20 For *there is* not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.

Ecc 7:21 Also take no heed unto all words that are spoken; lest thou hear thy servant curse thee:

Ecc 7:22 For oftentimes also thine own heart knoweth that thou thyself likewise hast cursed others.

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.
 - d. In sports I was taught that luck belongs to the good players – here Solomon is pointing out that success belongs to the wise.
- 

V13-14 Have wisdom - know that you can't fight with what God has done or what God allows to happen!

Never forget that trials are always under Gods control. He allows trials, and can change or stop them at any time.



V 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.
 - This means – we are made by God exactly as we are to accomplish what He has for us in His mission.

C. The Difficulty of Wisdom

Ecc 7:23 All this have I proved by wisdom: I said, I will be wise; but it *was* far from me.

Ecc 7:24 That which is far off, and exceeding deep, who can find it out?

Ecc 7:25 I applied mine heart to know, and to search, and to seek out wisdom, and the reason *of things*, and to know the wickedness of folly, even of foolishness *and* madness:

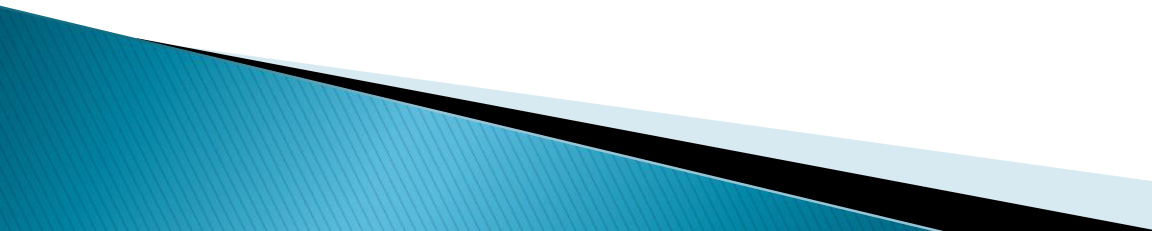
Ecc 7:26 And I find more bitter than death the woman, whose heart *is* snares and nets, *and* her hands *as* bands: whoso pleaseth God shall escape from her; but the sinner shall be taken by her.

Ecc 7:27 Behold, this have I found, saith the preacher, *counting* one by one, to find out the account:

Ecc 7:28 Which yet my soul seeketh, but I find not: one man among a thousand have I found; but a woman among all those have I not found.

Ecc 7:29 Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.



1. Verse 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.
- 



Ecclesiastes Chapter 8

A. Keep the King's Command

Ecc 8:1 Who *is* as the wise *man?* and who knoweth the interpretation of a thing? a man's wisdom maketh his face to shine, and the boldness of his face shall be changed.

Ecc 8:2 I *counsel thee* to keep the king's commandment, and *that* in regard of the oath of God.

Ecc 8:3 Be not hasty to go out of his sight: stand not in an evil thing; for he doeth whatsoever pleaseth him.

Ecc 8:4 Where the word of a king *is, there is* power: and who may say unto him, What doest thou?

Ecc 8:5 Whoso keepeth the commandment shall feel no evil thing: and a wise man's heart discerneth both time and judgment.

Ecc 8:6 Because to every purpose there is time and judgment, therefore the misery of man *is* great upon him.

Ecc 8:7 For he knoweth not that which shall be: for who can tell him when it shall be?

Ecc 8:8 *There is* no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither *hath he* power in the day of death: and *there is* no discharge in *that* war; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it.

Ecc 8:9 All this have I seen, and applied my heart unto every work that is done under the sun: *there is* a time wherein one man ruleth over another to his own hurt.

This is the continuation of the thoughts of Chapter 7 – The wise man is one who fears and follows God.

We are to follow and pattern our lives after THE wise man – Jesus Christ.


B. Those Who Fear God Will Do Well.

Ecc 8:10 And so I saw the wicked buried, who had come and gone from the place of the holy, and they were forgotten in the city where they had so done: this *is* also vanity.

Ecc 8:11 Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.

Ecc 8:12 Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his *days* be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him:

Ecc 8:13 But it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong *his* days, *which are* as a shadow; because he feareth not before God.

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 There is a vanity which is done upon the earth; that there be just *men*, unto whom it happeneth according to the work of the wicked; again, there be wicked *men*, to whom it happeneth according to the work of the righteous: I said that this also *is* vanity.

Ecc 8:15 Then I commended mirth, because a man hath no better thing under the sun, than to eat, and to drink, and to be merry: for that shall abide with him of his labour the days of his life, which God giveth him under the sun.

Ecc 8:16 When I applied mine heart to know wisdom, and to see the business that is done upon the earth: (for also *there is that* neither day nor night seeth sleep with his eyes:)

Ecc 8:17 Then I beheld all the work of God, that a man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun: because though a man labour to seek *it* out, yet he shall not find *it*; yea further; though a wise *man* think to know *it*, yet shall he not be able to find *it*.

1. Here Solomon finally admits defeat. He wasted his life trying to be wise and now admits that he can not 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”.
- 