



## ***Ecclesiastes Study - Chapter 7:***

### Ecclesiastes Chapter 7

1. A good name is more lovely than the finest perfume; the fragrance of a life well-lived even better than day of birth.
2. Spending time with those who mourn is far superior to partying with the ignorant. Take to heart this truth: you will not live forever. No one does.
3. There is a kind of 'good sadness' as well as 'horrible silliness'. Appropriate grieving can bring healing.
4. The heart of the wise is with those who suffer. The heart of the fool longs for a wild party.
5. The rebuke of the wise is true music; the drinking songs of drunken fools a grating noise.
6. The crackling of thorns under the campfire pot brings to mind the annoying cackles of fools telling stupid jokes. What a waste of breath.
7. Extortion and oppression will surely infuriate the wise man but beware the bribe! It will corrupt completely from the inside out.
8. Finishing a project is sweeter than merely starting one. Remember: Patience will bring rewards so don't give up when the going gets tough. Don't be too proud to follow through when you're worried you can't do it.
9. Don't be in a rush to be offended. The fool is always easily provoked.
10. Don't ever complain that today is more difficult than yesterday – that years gone by were so much better than ***this***. Maybe they were; maybe they weren't. And 'why' doesn't matter. You'll never make wise choices for the future with a bad attitude.
11. The wise man doesn't depend on his inheritance – he gets out of bed and gets to work.

12. Wisdom is good cover, and wealth offers safety. But it's clear to see that discernment – if you have it - can keep you alive and out of trouble.
13. Consider how God operates: Do you think you'd be able to straighten out what He has tied up in knots? Good luck.
14. When things are good – rejoice in God's favor! When things go bad, think carefully: Does God deserve the blame? Does He steal from man, leaving him empty handed?
15. Well, on days most frustrating to me I've seen this: The righteous dying early while the wicked go merrily on committing their sins with impunity.
16. Have you convinced yourself you're **so** righteous and **so** wise just because you've made yourself rich? Oh, you're setting yourself up for a desolation worse than any 'poverty' you can imagine.
17. You won't amount to much by being wicked no matter how much you accumulate. You won't long enjoy the fruits of being a fool, no matter how long you live.
18. Before circumstances swallow you up, it's good to seize onto this truth: God's got the righteous by the hand no matter what he must pass through.
19. The truly wise man is strong enough to conquer the ten that hold the city by force.
20. Left to his own devices, there's not one truly righteous man on earth. No one who always does right and never sins.
21. And pay no attention to all the flattery you hear – don't let it puff you up. While your ear's being tickled all the others are plotting against you.
22. You know full-well that you've cursed others under your breath. Others are just like you.
23. Wisdom makes these things plain. Yet pursue Wisdom herself and She always seems to be just out of reach.
24. How far do you have to go? Dig deep and it goes deeper still. Can the depth of wisdom ever be reached?
25. I determined in my heart to know the depths of wisdom and found myself drowning in a sea I couldn't fathom. So I pushed hard into folly to see how deep it went and bottomed out in madness.

26. In deep bitterness I discovered Folly to be a wicked mistress, snagging me in her snare and dragging me down in her net. Only the one who faces God shall ever escape her grasp.

27. Pay attention now! I, the Teacher, did the math to see how it all adds up.

28. Counting them one by one I couldn't find an upright man in a thousand. And as for women? I haven't a clue.

29. This alone can I deduce from all of it: God made mankind good and upright. We've been busy screwing things up ever since.

## ***Explain the Context***

From your own reading provide a short answer to the following:

<b>What</b> is the theme of this chapter?	<b>What</b> is the author communicating?
<b>What</b> did the author miss?	<b>What</b> is God trying to say?

Take a moment to consider these questions:

- 1) Are there simple solutions to meaninglessness?
- 2) How important to me is my “good” name?
- 3) Would I agree that “grief is better than laughter”? Why or why not?
- 4) Do I allow myself to be easily offended? Am I offended by the things that offend God?
- 5) Do I really believe God’s hand guides me – even through difficult situations?
- 6) Do I spend more time accumulating wealth than I do pursuing wisdom?

## Apply the Scripture

Write the verse that stood out to you while reading [in this translation or your favorite].

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How does this verse challenge you? Does it reveal an attribute of God's character?

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### For further study:

Consider these scriptures for further study. Add any others you find.

- Isaiah 14:27
- Romans 12:3
- Isaiah 55:8-9

### Lessons the *author* should have learned:

- ~ man's wisdom and commons sense only go so far – Beyond this – God!
- ~ Seek God's council first.