



## ***Ecclesiastes Study - Chapter 10:***

1. Dead flies in the ointment stink and spoil the whole batch. Even a little bit of stupidity mixed in with real wisdom does the same thing.
2. The heart of the wise leans to the right. The fool's heart leans away from what's right.
3. As the fool goes about his business he continuously reveals what a fool he is – his actions speak even louder than his words.
4. If the Spirit of Justice rises up to pursue you, stay put and don't run. Perhaps She will have mercy, heal your sins – even the great ones - and give you rest.
5. Something horrible I've seen with my own eyes and there's great evil in it: A ruler who abuses his authority and lies boldly.
6. Here's another: When a fool rises to great heights of power and the one rich in wisdom sits in the corner, ignored.
7. I've seen the servants of kings riding the horses of the defeated, while the conquered princes straggle along behind them.
8. Constantly dig traps for others and you're bound to fall in one of your own making. Stick your hand in the snake pit and you're sure to get bit.
9. One hauling too heavy a load is sure to be crushed by it. One splitting too large a timber might well get flattened.
10. Don't get stuck with a blunt sword. Honing to a killer sharp edge takes time and effort but saves the warrior. Wisdom brings success in the same way.
11. Fail to charm the snake and you're sure to get bit. Babble constantly and you'll fail to charm anyone. That kind of fool had better watch out.

12. Words from the mouth of the wise are gracious and gladly received. The fool chokes on his own words. Others just gag.
13. The fool starts out muttering ridiculous falsehoods. It all ends in blustering madness if it isn't stopped.
14. The fool can't stop talking even when he doesn't know anything. Nobody knows what's coming next, what will become of you or what will come *after* you. Who can?
15. Hire a fool and it'll wear you out fixing all his screw-ups. You can't even trust him to run an errand in town.
16. Woe to you when your king is a child! Or, a big baby. Woe to you when all the grownups that are supposed to insulate this simpleton are just as irresponsible and immature.
17. Yet what a joy it is when the king is raised well and it shows! When the princes and nobles take care of work first. When they take care of their health and don't allow themselves to get fat and useless.
18. Sloppy workmanship means the house falls apart. When repairs are needed, idle hands make the roof cave in.
19. To show hospitality to others you lay out the spread and throw a party. It'll cost you, but it's usually money well-spent.
20. Even if true, it's best not to slander the king openly. Even in the privacy of your home it's best not to speak ill of him. You never know who's listening and what little bird might carry the word to the king's ear.

## ***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) Do my biases about “right” and “left” affect how I read scripture? If so, How?
- 2) Is it easy or difficult to listen to the Spirit of Justice when She pursues me? How might I “stay put”(or be still)?
- 3) Verses 5-15 seem to be tied to the Proverbs and common sense. What common Proverbs do you “live by”? Where do you think they originated?
- 4) Verse 8 talks about “digging a trap”. How do I fall into old traps or habits? Who or what council am I listening to?
- 5) How does verse 20 encourage us to be mindful of how we speak?
- 6) How is folly a burden or trap?

## ***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.

- Proverbs 13:16
- Proverbs 25:15
- James 4:14

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

- ~God, Himself, is the Great King – the Giver of life and wisdom (James 1:5 & 6)