

Ecclesiastes VII
Soberness vs. Folly
Ecclesiastes 7:1-10

- I. THE BENEFITS OF A GOOD NAME (Ecclesiastes 7:1)
 - a. It Is What Identifies You
 - i. Your Reputation = “What people think of you, what someone repeatedly sees you as”
 - 1. Reputation when broken down is made up of the following; re = repeat, putation = putative.
 - 2. “Putative” means to judge or suppose.
 - ii. Reputation in scripture
 - 1. A little folly can ruin it (Ecclesiastes 10:1)
 - 2. You’re known among the people by it (Acts 5:34; Philippians 2:7, 29)
 - 3. You can influence with it (Galatians 2:2)
 - 4. While not named specifically one can see that even in Proverbs, Solomon made a point that it was important of the reputation that one held (Proverbs 15:30)
 - b. It Is What You Are
 - i. Your Character = “The sum of qualities that define a person,” one author has termed it as “what (who) God knows you are.”
 - ii. Character in scripture
 - 1. While the word character does not appear in scripture, the meaning is still conveyed very well.
 - a. It is to be chosen over riches (Proverbs 22:1)
 - b. It is key in having a relationship with God (Isaiah 66:2)
 - 2. God will make your character known
 - a. Faith will affect your character
 - i. Faith caused the elders to obtain a good report (Hebrews 11:1-2)
 - ii. It was through faith that the elders obtained that good report (Hebrews 11:39)

- iii. Your faith and character will be a deciding factor in whether you will endure the path that is set before you. (Hebrews 12:1)
 - b. Your faith in Christ
 - i. Will affect how your character directs you (Hebrews 12:2)
 - ii. Considering his character should cause us to not be wearied in our character (Hebrews 12:3)
 - c. It Is Better Than the Riches of This World
 - i. A precious ointment
 - 1. Was of great cost in Scripture (John 12:3-8)
 - 2. It could be sold for a great sum (John 12:5, 8)
 - ii. A good name is of greater value (Ecclesiastes 7:1)
- II. THE BENEFITS OF THE DAY OF ONE'S DEATH (Ecclesiastes 7:1-2)
 - a. The Day of Death
 - i. We know what a person has wrought in their life (Ecclesiastes 7:2)
 - 1. It is the end of all men, therefore, we know what kind of person they have been.
 - 2. We know what their end has been.
 - ii. Death makes us stop and think about our own life (Ecclesiastes 7:2)
 - 1. "The house of mourning" will help you to get a focus on spiritual matters.
 - 2. One will stop and think about his own life, and how he's lived it when faced with another man's end. (Deuteronomy 32:29)
 - iii. The example of Christ and His end
 - 1. Christ could say that He had kept all of the men that the Father had given Him (John 17:6-12), except for the son of perdition (Judas).
 - 2. Christ's death was prepared with an alabaster box of ointment (Mark 14:3-9)
 - a. His name at His death was good.

- b. We have seen that a good name is better than precious ointment, notice how that the one whose name is above every name has a costly ointment poured out on Him. (Mark 14:3)
 - c. His (Christ's) death pleased the Father's wrath (Isaiah 53:11-12)
 - d. Precious are the deaths of the saints in the sight of the LORD (Psalm 116:15)
 - iv. The benefits of a Christian's death
 1. Death is gain (Philippians 1:21)
 2. It is far better (Philippians 1:23)
 3. To escape the evil to come (Isaiah 57:1-2)
 4. We have a greater tabernacle awaiting us (2 Corinthians 5:1)
 5. We shall be with the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:6, 8)
 6. We have a rest in our future (Hebrews 4:9)
 - b. The Day of Birth
 - i. We know not what a person will do with their life (This contrasted with the fact that at a person's death you know what kind of life they have lived).
 - ii. Man is full of trouble at the start (Job 14:1)
 - c. The House of Feasting
 - i. Is warned against (Ecclesiastes 7:2; Isaiah 5:11-12)
 - ii. The heart of the fool is in the house of mirth (Ecclesiastes 7:4)
 - iii. The heart learns more in a place of sadness (Ecclesiastes 7:3)
 - iv. Folly is easily made in the house of feasting (Job 1:4-5)
- III. THE HEART OF THE WISE (Ecclesiastes 7:3, 4)
 - a. Will Seek to Learn
 - i. From sobering times (Ecclesiastes 7:3)
 1. Times of death (Ecclesiastes 7:2)
 2. Times of spiritual warfare (1 Peter 5:8-9)
 - ii. Through troubling times (Hebrews 12:10-11)
 1. The Jews learned this when they were taken captive to Babylon (Psalm 137:1-4)
 2. As Christians through experience with our Lord (Romans 5:3-4)

3. As God's children we learn to have experience with our Father and his teaching us lifelong lessons (2 Corinthians 4:17; Hebrews 12:10-11; James 1:2-4)

IV. THE HEART OF THE FOOL (Ecclesiastes 7:4)

- a. Says There is No God (Psalm 14:1)
- b. Acts Like There is No God (Psalm 53:1)
 - i. Nabal and his folly (1 Samuel 25:25)
 - ii. Abigail and the staying of vengeance on Nabal's house (1 Samuel 25:32-35)
 - iii. The death of Nabal (1 Samuel 25:36-38)
- c. Christians are commanded to not be this way (Titus 3:3)

V. THE HEARING OF THE EAR (Ecclesiastes 7:5-6)

- a. The Hearing of Rebuke from the Wise (Ecclesiastes 7:5a)
 - i. It is like oil (Psalm 141:5)
 1. This is one reason why preaching is most effective
 2. It is a kindness
 3. It is an excellent oil
 - ii. Hearing the proper rebuke will keep you wise (Proverbs 15:31)
 1. Hearing of reproof (Proverbs 17:10)
 - a. More reproof enters a wise man than a fool
 - b. More than stripes into a fool
 - c. A wise man will hear rebuke and love you for it (Proverbs 9:8)
 2. You will stay among the wise
 - a. Faithful wounds of a friend (Proverbs 27:6)
 - b. The Lord chastens those that He loves (Revelation 3:19)
- b. The Hearing of the Song of the Fool (Ecclesiastes 7:5-6)
 - i. His song
 1. The drunkards' song (Psalm 69:12)
 2. Job was the song of men that had been lower than him (Job 30:8-9)

- ii. His Laughter (Ecclesiastes 7:6)
 - 1. Is like thorns under a pot
 - 2. The sons of Belial (men of the world) shall be like thorns (2 Samuel 23:6; Hebrews 6:8) – Lost
 - a. Their laughter is for a season
 - b. They will be thrust away forever

VI. THE FRUSTRATION AND DESTRUCTION OF THE WISE (Ecclesiastes 7:7)

- a. Righteous Anger (Ephesians 4:26)
 - i. Moses with Aaron at the foot of the mount (Exodus 32:21-29)
 - ii. Phinehas and his putting away of sin (Numbers 25:7-11; Psalm 106:30)
 - iii. Nehemiah as governor (Nehemiah 5:6-13)
 - 1. The Jews had brought into bondage their own people because of debts that were owed.
 - 2. This rightfully angered Nehemiah as governor.
- b. Unrighteous Anger
 - i. Moses at the water of Meribah (Numbers 20:10-13)
 - ii. Admonishment to sin not (Psalm 4:4)
- c. A Payment for Destruction (Ecclesiastes 7:7)
 - i. A gift given to the wise blinds judgment (Exodus 23:8)
 - ii. The judges of the land were to not take gifts of the people (Deuteronomy 16:18-19)

VII. THE PATIENT SPIRIT PRAISED (Ecclesiastes 7:8)

- a. The Patient Spirit
 - i. Is praised for his patience
 - ii. Pays off in the end
 - 1. Joseph with his brothers (Genesis 50:20)
 - 2. The Christian's life (Romans 8:28)
- b. The Proud Spirit
 - i. Is Rebuked for his pride
 - 1. Wisdom hates pride (Proverbs 8:13) – The fear of the Lord is to hate pride
 - 2. Pride brings shame (Proverbs 11:2)
 - 3. Pride brings contention (Proverbs 13:10)
 - 4. Pride rests in the mouth of fools (Proverbs 14:3)