

# Ecclesiastes 7

## LESSON 08

### *Good and Better Things under the Sun*

#### 1. First Thoughts

- a. A transition from what is ultimately no good, toward what is at least better.
- b. 6:11-12 - "What is man the better?" "What is good?" "what hath wise > than fool?"
- c. 6:10 – Man cannot contend with God – "why hast thou made me thus?" Rom 9:20
- d. There are a lot of Proverbs, God references, and foreshadowing/prophecies here
- e. Life is filled with unanswered questions, so he looks at what he knows

#### 2. Ecclesiastes 7:1-10 – Better Things

- a. 1 – A good name (Pr 22) not always seen as good (Bible believers vs. know-nothings)
  - i. Birthdays (names/titles) vs. funerals (remembrance/glorify)
- b. 2-4 – Prov 14:13, 15:13, Rom 12:15 –laughter not the best medicine for brokenness
- c. 5 – Could similarly describe the problem with modern church meetings
  - i. Looking at these "negative" things through vanity's eyes, they look better
- d. 7-10 – Patient (not getting what you want) is better (Prov 13:10)
  - i. Slow to anger – Jam 1:19, Prv 12:16, 15:18, 16:32, 28:25
  - ii. Golden days are a combination of bad memory and good imagination

#### 3. Ecclesiastes 7:11-19 – Wisdom is Good

- a. 11 – Something is good? Wow. (fine print: w/inheritance to them that see the sun)
  - i. Ecc 1:18 – when as a child, ignorance was bliss; but wisdom is good/ better
- b. 12 – Wisdom and money a defence (a protection) - Prov 25:28
- c. 13-14 – "Consider the work of God" – Ps 143:5, Job 9:10, and Isa 40:3, 42:16
- d. 15 – Good things happen to bad people, bad things happen to good people
- e. 16-19 – Don't be foolish or proud – fear God. This sounds like Proverbs Prov 24:5

#### 4. Ecclesiastes 7:20-29 – There is None Good

- a. 20 – This is Psa 14:1, 53:1, Rom 3:12, wisdom of the OT brings you to Romans 3:21
- b. 21 – Every idle word will be given account for – Matt 12:36
- c. 23 – This is Solomon confessing his downfall – Rom 1:21-22,
- d. 24 - Who can find it out? - Ro 11:33, Eph 3:9, 1 Cor 2:10
- e. 25 – He could not find a reason for things: and no it is not in this woman (26-28)
  - i. One man = Job? Solomon? Jesus?
  - ii. Read Proverbs 5-8; Prov 12:4, 19:13, 21:9 and 31:10. Solomon had 1000
- f. 29 – What has he found? God made it good. Man has many inventions to twist it.
  - i. Men are all sinners. The world is worse off for man's inventions/philosophies/idolatries, etc.