

Berwyn Church of Christ: Ecclesiastes Study

Date: June 17, 2026	
Connecting Scriptures/Thoughts	Ecclesiastes 7: Contrasting Wisdom and Folly
<p>V1-4 just happened to me, a good name helped me out. SC said Begin with the End in Mind and asked: what you would want ppl to say about you at your funeral.</p> <p>This connects well with the preachers analysis that funerals usually cause deep thoughts and reflection. Fools only want to dwell on good times, but life is more meaningful than just "good times".</p> <p>V5-6 fools tell you what you want to hear & make noise(crackling thorns), wise ppl tell you what you need to hear.</p> <p>V8 How many ppl start something but never finish the task? Luke 14:28, Philippians 1:6; 2 Tim 4:7 patience is needed to complete difficult tasks. Feelings get hurt when pride is allowed to rule the day.</p> <p>V9-14 -Control your anger -don't long for the past -Wisdom is more valuable than wealth -accept the day as it is, some days adversity some days with ease, some mundane, some exciting.</p>	<p>[1] A good name is better than precious ointment, and the day of death than the day of birth.</p> <p>[2] It is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting, for this is the end of all mankind, and the living will lay it to heart.</p> <p>[3] Sorrow is better than laughter, for by sadness of face the heart is made glad.</p> <p>[4] The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.</p> <p>[5] It is better for a man to hear the rebuke of the wise than to hear the song of fools.</p> <p>[6] For as the crackling of thorns under a pot, so is the laughter of the fools; this also is vanity.</p> <p>[7] Surely oppression drives the wise into madness, and a bribe corrupts the heart.</p> <p>[8] Better is the end of a thing than its beginning, and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.</p> <p>[9] Be not quick in your spirit to become angry, for anger lodges in the heart of fools.</p> <p>[10] Say not, "Why were the former days better than these?" For it is not from wisdom that you ask this.</p> <p>[11] Wisdom is good with an inheritance, an advantage to those who see the sun.</p> <p>[12] For the protection of wisdom is like the protection of money, and the advantage of knowledge is that wisdom preserves the life of him who has it.</p> <p>[13] Consider the work of God: who can make straight what he has made crooked?</p> <p>[14] In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider: God has made the one as well as the other, so that man may not find out anything that will be after him.</p> <p>[15] In my vain life I have seen everything. There is a righteous man who perishes in his righteousness, and there is a wicked man who prolongs his life in his evildoing.</p> <p>[16] Be not overly righteous, and do not make yourself too wise. Why should you destroy yourself?</p>

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V15-18 The point here is not live a little wickedly or you don't have to be overly righteous, but rather that you may be righteous and still die, you might be wicked and still live. Job's wife misunderstood God, she thought why serve God if you are suffering? Righteous living and wicked living do not give you control over life(refer back to v14

V19-22 to live a balanced life one must know that he or she does not control all aspects. Romans 3:10;23 no one good, only Christ. Ppl are going to talk about you, don't listen to untruthful and non helpful criticism.

V22 Do not take it to heart because you know you have done the same thing. Please remember that you have said slanderous words. You have gossiped. You have said hurtful things about others. You have been unkind. You have been angry.

V23-29 We need Wisdom 23/24 living wise is hard, especially God's because it has no end. However, God has shared enough with us but it is still hard.

Proverbs 31:10 Who can find a wife of noble character?

God created us upright, in His image able to make wise decisions but man falls for many of his own schemes.

[17] Be not overly wicked, neither be a fool. Why should you die before your time?

[18] It is good that you should take hold of this, and from that withhold not your hand, for the one who fears God shall come out from both of them.

[19] Wisdom gives strength to the wise man more than ten rulers who are in a city.

[20] Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins.

[21] Do not take to heart all the things that people say, lest you hear your servant cursing you.

[22] Your heart knows that many times you yourself have cursed others.

[23] All this I have tested by wisdom. I said, "I will be wise," but it was far from me.

[24] That which has been is far off, and deep, very deep; who can find it out?

[25] I turned my heart to know and to search out and to seek wisdom and the scheme of things, and to know the wickedness of folly and the foolishness that is madness.

[26] And I find something more bitter than death: the woman whose heart is snares and nets, and whose hands are fetters. He who pleases God escapes her, but the sinner is taken by her.

[27] Behold, this is what I found, says the Preacher, while adding one thing to another to find the scheme of things—

28] which my soul has sought repeatedly, but I have not found.

One man among a thousand I found, but a woman among all these I have not found.

[29] See, this alone I found, that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes. (ESV)