

READ

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Watch Ecclesiastes Wisdom Video: <https://youtu.be/VeUiuSK81-0>

Ecclesiastes 7:1 to 7:29 (and/or listen to audible chapter 687)

SUMMARY

This chapter uses the style of Proverbs, making mention of practical wisdom. Frequently, we read that one thing is "better" than another, giving guidance for wise living.

WISE SAYINGS Ecc. 7:1-14

- (7:1) Whether it's a woman wearing the latest fragrance or a man wearing cologne, people notice when a person smells good and ask, "What's that you have on?" It's far better though that people notice you because of the pleasant scent of your dignity and character. After all, no matter how sweet-smelling your perfume can't make up for a foul-smelling reputation. Work on your character so you'll have a fragrant reputation.
- (7:2-4) At the funeral home, things get real. You're obliged to stare at a casket and admit to yourself, "One day, that's going to be me in there." A visit to a funeral will remind you of what's important and that your days are numbered. It will help you live with an eternal perspective.
- (7:5-6) Being wise isn't tied to academic accomplishment; a fool can have a Ph.D. Wisdom is the ability to make spiritually informed decisions. It's applying the divine truth of God's kingdom rule to every area of life. If someone with a divine perspective rebukes you, let him speak into your life so that you can become wise. A wise rebuke is far more valuable than a fool singing your praises.
- (7:9) Many people will commit silly mistakes because they were hasty in their outrage (7:9)
- (7:10) There's nothing wrong with reminiscing with friends and family but don't waste all your time gabbing about and longing for the good old days. If you choose to live in yesterday, you won't make forward progress and will fail to achieve what God wants you to be tomorrow. (7:10)
- (7:11-12) Whatever financial inheritance you leave behind for your children, make sure that you also leave them a legacy of wisdom. Financial security is tenuous, but wisdom provides the security of God's perspective.
- (7:13-15) Deuteronomy 29:29 reminds us that "the hidden things belong to the lord" in the same vein, Solomon invites us to consider God's works and ask ourselves, **who can straighten out what he has made crooked?** (Ecc. 7:13) You'll only get a headache if you consume yourself trying to figure out what God doesn't explain. As sure as we don't always answer our

kids “why?” because it wouldn't be appropriate to do so or because they wouldn't understand anyway. God often does not reveal his ways to us. That he has made the **day of prosperity** and the **day of adversity** (7:14) is a reminder that he is sovereign. When things are out of your control, thank God they are in his control. Develop a spiritual viewpoint

AVOIDING EXTREMES

➤ (7:16) Solomon is talking about going beyond what God requires. That approach is exactly what the Pharisees did. They added their own standards to God's standards and became self-righteous in the name of righteousness. Wise in their own eyes.

➤ (7:20) We all fall short; everyone sins, but that doesn't give us a license to persist in wicked ways.

WHAT THE TEACHER FOUND

➤ (7:29) The book of Genesis explains how humanity wandered from God, how evil proliferated as a result and lays the groundwork for why the world suffers.

QUESTIONS

What does this reveal to me about God?

What does God want me to see?

What does God want me to hear?

What is God asking of me?

What did you not like about these verses?