

YOU ARE GOING TO DIE
ECCLESIASTES 7:1-6
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Introduction:

Ecclesiastes 7:1)

Good name = Good reputation

Precious ointment/perfume is expensive.

My paraphrase: 'Having a good reputation in the community is better than having a lot of money.'

Day of death is a day of mourning; day of birth is a day of celebration.

Ecclesiastes 7:2)

One translation of 2a: 'It is better to go to a funeral than to a party.'

But why?

My paraphrase of 2b: 'You are going to die, and at a funeral you will remember that truth.'

The day of death has more to teach us (more wisdom) than the day of birth.

Ps 90:12 "Teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom."

Pleasure is not bad, but.....

Ecclesiastes 7:3)

Context: Sorrow at a funeral; laughter at a party

My paraphrase: 'The sorrow you get at a funeral is better than the happiness you get at a party because it changes the way you see life, and that leads to a deeper kind of happiness.'

This section is not about right or wrong, righteousness or sin, but about what's better/more wise. Note the words "wise" and "fools" in vv.4-6.

Ecclesiastes 7:4)

My paraphrase: 'A wise person goes to funerals, but a fool only hangs out at parties.'

Ecclesiastes 7:5)

Like going to a funeral, another thing that is no fun (but leads to depth of character) is being rebuked by a wise person.

My paraphrase: 'It is better to listen to a rebuke from someone who has become wise because they have thought deeply about life and death than to listen to foolish party songs.'

Song of fools (Amos 6:4-6)

Ecclesiastes 7:6)

My paraphrase: 'The laughter of fools escaping reality at a party is hebel/meaningless/doesn't amount to anything.'

Conclusion: We live in escapist culture.

Two ways of handling the fact that we will die:

1) The world's way: ignore, distract from, not think about, assume we will get up tomorrow morning like we always do, put death out of mind.

2) Bible's way: realize this truth and therefore live wisely (Ps 90:12)

-by preparing yourself for death and standing before God

Unbelievers:

Christians: (1 Cor 3:14-15)

-by understanding that the time you have left is a gift from God and enjoying his gifts

Application Assignment:

- 1) Say to yourself repeatedly: "I am going to die."**
- 2) Ask yourself whether you are ready to meet God.**
- 3) Ask yourself: Since my days are numbered, how can I best use whatever is left of the life God gives me?**
- 4) Commit yourself to enjoying and being thankful for the gracious gifts God gives along the way.**