

# Ecclesiastes 10

Wisdom belongs to the LORD

**Ecclesiastes 9:18** Wisdom is better than weapons of war; But one sinner destroys much good."

## I. Various Proverbs

1 Dead flies putrefy the perfumer's ointment, And cause it to give off a foul odor; So does a little folly to **one respected for wisdom and honor.**

As a tiny dead fly decaying in a bottle fine perfume destroys the entire fragrance...so a little foolishness in our lives can nullify all our previous acts of wisdom and honor

- **Little foolishness. One bad decision. Much destruction**

1. **Pastors falling:** Pornography/affairs: Former Pastor of \_\_\_\_\_
2. **Marriages failing:** "I just wanted someone to treat me special"
3. **Successful adults:** "Just one drink to take the edge off"
4. **Talented youth:** " "No longer a virgin for my future husband/wife"

**We are called to be men and women of consistency in our walk with Jesus**

**Jude 24** [Jesus] is able to keep you from stumbling... present you faultless. [Joseph/Daniel]

- **Already stumbled? Repent. Get back up!**

1. God's mercies are new every morning!
2. God does not hold grudges with His kids!

**Psalms 103:8** [David] The Lord is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.<sup>9</sup> He will not always strive with us, Nor will He keep His anger forever.<sup>10</sup> He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities.<sup>11</sup> For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him;<sup>12</sup> As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.<sup>13</sup> As a father pities his children, So the Lord pities those who fear Him.<sup>14</sup> For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.

Consequences from foolish decisions may follow us the rest of our earthly life...but it is not God's will that we are paralyzed by guilt and shame. Jesus took that for us on the cross.

- **Jesus to Peter:** "Feed my sheep"
- **Jesus to woman caught in adultery:** "Go and sin no more"

2 A wise man's heart is at his right hand, But a fool's heart at his left.

- **Heart in right hand:** Position of strength and control; guided by God's Word
- **Heart in left hand:** Position of weakness; Guided by feeling and emotion

3 Even when a fool walks along the way, He lacks wisdom, And he shows everyone that he is a fool.

- **Easy to recognize a fool by observation:**
  1. Silly hats

2. Lewd Words on shirt
3. Revving engines
4. Cursing
5. Walking down the street; mannerisms, body language

- **Alistair Begg:** Running over cars in parking lot at a soccer game

4 If the spirit of the ruler rises against you, Do not leave your post; For conciliation pacifies great offenses.

- **Another description of a fool:** Impetuosity
  1. Situation becomes tense. Realize person is mad at you...offended by you
    - a) Marriage
    - b) Job
  2. Storm out of the tense situation. Make a scene
  3. Not prepared to do what it takes to reconcile
    - a) Work it out
    - b) Apologize
    - c) Explain if misunderstood
    - d) Not willing to swallow your pride for the sake of Christ?

**Peacemaking** [especially when we are wrong] **takes sacrifice.**

**The sacrifice of a peacemaker will be rewarded**

**Matthew 5:9** Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God. **10** Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

5 There is an evil I have seen under the sun, As an error proceeding from the ruler: 6 Folly is set in great dignity, While the rich sit in a lowly place. 7 I have seen servants on horses, While princes walk on the ground like servants.

- **Evil Mistake made by those in authority:**
  1. Foolishness is rewarded
  2. Honor is punished
    - a) Servants ride horses
    - b) Kings sons walk

**How does this happen to a nation? Foolishness rewarded/Honor punished. Begins with turning from God and turning to Humanism; i.e. "We know better"**

- **Mechanics to the Downfall of a Nation:** Three Step Plan
  1. **Diversity:**
    - a) Celebrate/Honor the bizarre under the guise of "Don't judge"
  2. **Tolerance:**
    - a) No absolutes/ No right and wrong/ to disagree is to be a "bigot"
  3. **Empowerment**
    - a) Seek to bring as many of these bizarre differences into societal view

- b) Establish laws that exalt strange behavior/lifestyle/perversity above...
  - Honor
  - Righteousness
  - Wisdom
  - Goodness
  - Ability
- Have not or will not consider the tragic end result...

8 He who digs a pit will fall into it, And whoever breaks through a wall will be bitten by a serpent.9 He who quarries stones may be hurt by them, And he who splits wood may be endangered by it. 10 If the ax is dull, And one does not sharpen the edge, Then he must use more strength...

- **Picture: Fool not taking time to plan**
  1. Digs a pit and not making allowance for sides weakening...caves in
  2. Hammers through a wall not caring about potential danger behind...snakes
  3. Pulls out the bottom stone in a quarry and...boom
  4. Takes an ax without sharpening and bludgeons the tree instead of cutting it

10b...But wisdom brings success.

- **Wisdom says:** Planning/Praying gets the job done quicker...

11 A serpent may bite when it is not charmed; The babbler is no different.12 The words of a wise man's mouth are gracious, But the lips of a fool shall swallow him up; 13 The words of his mouth begin with foolishness, And the end of his talk is raving madness.14 A fool also multiplies words. No man knows what is to be; Who can tell him what will be after him?

- **Lesson from a Babbling Fool**
  1. **Wise:** Communicates with grace; Allowing others speak
  2. **Fool:** Swallows up his/her hearers ...not letting them get a word in edgewise
    - a) Begins with foolishness [God not taken into consideration]
    - b) Digresses to point of "raving madness"
    - c) Fool multiplies words trying to sound intelligent
    - d) Gives advice without wisdom

15 The labor of fools wearies them, For they do not even know how to go to the city!

- **Poor planning leads to exhaustion for the fool:** Makes excuses not to work...
  1. I didn't have directions to the job in the city?
  2. The alarm didn't go off?
  3. Not feeling well?

16 Woe to you, O land, when your king is a child, And your princes feast in the morning! 17 Blessed are you, O land, when your king is the son of nobles, And your princes feast at the proper time...—For strength and not for

## drunkenness!

- **Cursed Nation**

1. **King is a child:** Immature.
2. **Princes** [cabinet] party in morning
  - a) Unconcerned about populous
  - b) Unconcerned about future ramifications to the nation
  - c) Not prepared for the daily job of governing
  - d) Feasting: Eating/Drinking in morning for pleasure
    - Not Gathering strategic information
    - Not Delegating responsibility
  - e) **Immature King:** Desires Power without accepting accountability

### Spiderman's Uncle Ben Parker: "With great power comes great responsibility"

- **Blessed Nation**

1. King is the son of Nobles: Wise
2. Kings sons feast at dinner time **after the work is done**
3. Motive of wise King: Feast for strength and not drunkenness/pleasure

## 18 Because of laziness the building decays, And through idleness of hands the house leaks.

- Solomon's disdain for laziness. God's too?

**2 Thessalonians 3:10** ... If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. 11 For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. 12 Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and **eat their own bread.**

- An understanding the satisfaction of "eating our own bread" needs to be taught

## 19 A feast is made for laughter, And wine makes merry; But money answers everything.

- Feasting leads to a good time but...
- **There will be no feast** or anything else without working/making money

## 20 Do not curse the king, even in your thought; Do not curse the rich, even in your bedroom...

- Don't curse those who easy targets!
  1. Authority
  2. Rich
- Don't curse them in your mind. Don't curse them in private...

**20b**...For a bird of the air may carry your voice, And a bird in flight may tell the matter.

- **Scripture:** Birds of the air allegory of demonic activity
- **Do angels hear us?** Do demons hear us?
  1. Words heard in spiritual realm...Leading to repercussions in the physical?
  2. When we gossip do we notice a difference in our relations with that person?

**A little bird told me?**

**SUMMARY Various Proverbs**