



DANUBE
INTERNATIONAL CHURCH





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Ecclesiastes

LIFE IN LIGHT OF ETERNITY





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Wisdom for an Unpredictable Life

Ecclesiastes 7

Ecclesiastes 7:1-29

1 A good name is better than precious ointment, and the day of death than the day of birth. 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. 3 Sorrow is better than laughter, for by sadness of face the heart is made glad. 4 The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth. 5 It is better for a man to hear the rebuke of the wise than to hear the song of fools. 6 For as the crackling of thorns under a pot, so is the laughter of the fools; this also is vanity. 7 Surely oppression drives the wise into madness, and a bribe corrupts the heart. 8 Better is the end of a thing than its beginning, and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit. 9 Be not quick in your spirit to become angry, for anger lodges in the bosom of fools. 10 Say not, Why were the former days better than these? For it is not from wisdom that you ask this. 11 Wisdom is good with an inheritance, an advantage to those who see the sun.

Ecclesiastes 7:1-29

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. 13 Consider the work of God: who can make straight what he has made crooked?. 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. 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. 16 Be not overly righteous, and do not make yourself too wise. Why should you destroy yourself? 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.

Ecclesiastes 7:1-29

**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.**



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Big Idea:

*Wisdom grows when we stop trying to control life
and start trusting the God who governs it.*

Wisdom for an Unpredictable Life

Ecclesiastes 7

- I. Wisdom Learns from Hard Things** (Ecc. 7:1-14)
- II. Wisdom Admits Its Moral Limits** (Ecc. 7:15-22)
- III. Wisdom Recognizes Our Need for Redemption** (Ecc. 7:23-29)

Wisdom for an Unpredictable Life

Ecclesiastes 7

I. **Wisdom Learns from Hard Things** - (Ecc. 7:1-14)

1 A good name is better than precious ointment, and **the day of death than the day of birth.** **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. **3 Sorrow is better than laughter**, for by sadness of face the heart is made glad. **4** The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth. **5** It is better for a man to hear the rebuke of the wise than to hear the song of fools.

Hard realities often produce deeper wisdom than easy pleasures.

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We see this in the experiences we often try to avoid.

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Ecclesiastes 7

I. **Wisdom Learns from Hard Things** - (Ecc. 7:1-14)

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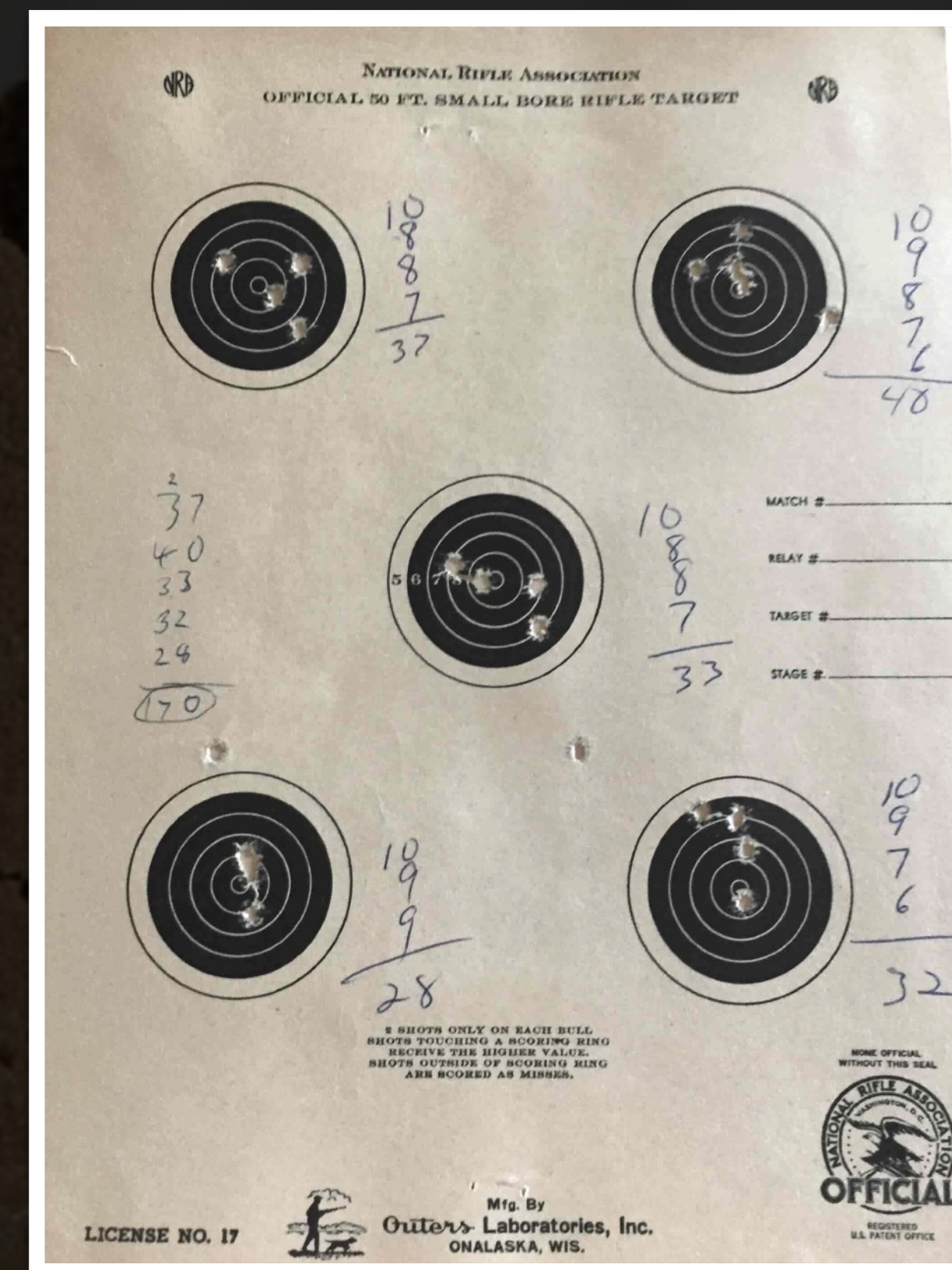


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*Suffering dismantles the illusion that we are self-sufficient,
and that illusion is one of the greatest obstacles to wisdom.*

Bruce Waltke

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*Suffering dismantles the illusion that we are self-sufficient,
and that illusion is one of the greatest obstacles to wisdom.*

Bruce Waltke

**“The experiences we most try to avoid are often the ones
God uses most to make us wise.”**

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Ecclesiastes 7

I. **Wisdom Learns from Hard Things** - (Ecc. 7:1-14)

REFLECTION

What difficult experience might God be using to shape wisdom in my life right now?

Wisdom for an Unpredictable Life

Ecclesiastes 7

II. **Wisdom Admits Its Moral Limits** (Ecc. 7:15–22)

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.** **16** Be not overly righteous, and do not make yourself too wise. Why should you destroy yourself? **17** Be not overly wicked, neither be a fool. Why should you die before your time?

Our righteousness cannot control life.

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Ecclesiastes 7

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WHERE THIS ILLUSION SHOWS UP IN OUR HEARTS

“If I live a good life, then I should get a good life.”

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Ecclesiastes 7

II. Wisdom Admits Its Moral Limits (Ecc. 7:15–22)

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.

**Not only can our righteousness not control life...
our righteousness is not even perfect.**

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

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“Nothing comes from nothing... so somewhere in my youth or childhood, I must have done something good.”

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We overestimate our goodness and we underestimate God's goodness.

Wisdom for an Unpredictable Life

Ecclesiastes 7

II. Wisdom Admits Its Moral Limits - (Ecc. 7:15–22)

REFLECTION

Where might you still be quietly trusting your own goodness rather than God's grace?

*“Your goodness can shape your character,
but it cannot control your life.”*

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III. Wisdom Recognizes Our Need for Redemption- (Ecc. 7:23-29)

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

Human wisdom has limits.



Wisdom for an Unpredictable Life

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III. **Wisdom Recognizes Our Need for Redemption-** (Ecc. 7:23-29)

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

Human wisdom has limits.

Wisdom can guide life but cannot unlock all of life's mysteries.

Walter Kaiser

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III. **Wisdom Recognizes Our Need for Redemption-** (Ecc. 7:23-29)

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

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

“Craving clarity we attempt to eliminate the risk of trusting God.”

Brennan Manning

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III. Wisdom Recognizes Our Need for Redemption- (Ecc. 7:23-29)

REFLECTION

Where are you right now?

Take a quiet moment and place one of those unanswered questions before Him. A decision,... the future,... suffering.

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Ecclesiastes 7

III. Wisdom Recognizes Our Need for Redemption- (Ecc. 7:23-29)

REFLECTION

“Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.”

Corrie ten Boom

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III. Wisdom Recognizes Our Need for Redemption- (Ecc. 7:23-29)

REFLECTION

“Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.”

Corrie ten Boom

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”

A.W. Tozer

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Ecclesiastes 7 teaches us three things.

- Hardship often becomes the classroom where wisdom grows.**
- Our righteousness cannot control life.**
- And our wisdom cannot explain everything.**



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