

## PRAYER

### Ecclesiastes #15 (11/2) 'Wisdom Makes Life Better' - Ecclesiastes 7:1-14

*For in much wisdom is much vexation,  
and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow. – Ecclesiastes 1:18 (ESV)*

*For who knows what is good for man while he lives the few days of his vain life, which he passes like a shadow? For who can tell man what will be after him under the sun? - Ecclesiastes 6:12 (ESV)*

#### **Wisdom makes Life BETTER. But how?**

**1. Sorrow is better than I \_\_\_\_\_? (v.1–3)**

**Q. What does he mean that a good name is better than precious ointment?**

**Q. What value is there in mourning and sorrow?**

**Q. How can such times be a unique time for growth for us?**

*Sorrow is better than laughter, for by sadness of face the heart is made glad. – Ecclesiastes 7:3 (ESV)*

**Q. What is being compared here?**

**Q. What does he mean in verse three that sorrow is better than laughter?**

**Q. How can a place of mourning be better than a place of feasting or bliss?**

**Q. So how can sorrow be better than laughter?**

**Q. What makes the difference between becoming better vs becoming bitter?**

*Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing" - James 1:2-4 (ESV)  
Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted - Matthew 5:4 (ESV)*

*Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep - Luke 6:25 (ESV).*

*Godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret - 2 Corinthians 7:10 (ESV)*

*Teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom - Psalm 90:12 (ESV)*

*A glad heart makes a cheerful face, but by sorrow of heart the spirit is crushed....15 All the days of the afflicted are evil, but the cheerful of heart has a continual feast. - Proverbs 15:13 & 15 (ESV)*

**2. Wisdom brings b \_\_\_\_\_ (v.4-5)**

*Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid. - Proverbs 12:1 (ESV)*

**3. Wisdom brings p \_\_\_\_\_ (v.6-10)**

*We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. - Romans 8:28 (ESV)*

*As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good. - Genesis 50:20 (ESV)*

**4. Wisdom brings b \_\_\_\_\_ (v.11-12)**

**Q. What are some benefits of wisdom here?**

**Q. What does he think are the benefits of money?**

**5. Wisdom brings c \_\_\_\_\_ (v.13-14)**

**Q. How is God portrayed?**

**Q. What advice does Solomon give in either time, good or bad?**

We get clarity about God in three important areas:

1. God is **SOVEREIGN** (v.13)
2. God is **INVOLVED** (v.14)
3. God can be **SECRETIVE** (v.14)

*The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord. - Job 1:21 (ESV)*

**Q. What are some good things or blessings in your life?**

**Q. Think of a time of adversity. What blessing came through it?**