

**DON'T RUIN YOUR LIFE**  
**Ecclesiastes 10:1-10**

**How to avoid ruining your life:**

**1. Resist temptation**

*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. (1)*

**2. Pursue wisdom**

*A wise man's heart is at his right hand,  
But a fool's heart at his left.  
Even when a fool walks along the way,  
He lacks wisdom,  
And he shows everyone that he is a fool. (2-3)*

**3. Practice self-control**

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

**4. Stop comparing**

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

**5. Plan carefully**

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

*Then he must use more strength;  
But wisdom brings success. (8-10)*