



Ecclesiastes: *The Vanity of Life Under the Sun*

Ecclesiastes 6:10-7:14

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Two big questions

❖ **Ecclesiastes 6:10-11**

- ❖ Isaiah 46:10—*declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,'*
- ❖ Job 9:32—*For he is not a man, as I am, that I might answer him, that we should come to trial together*

❖ **Ecclesiastes 6:12**

1. How should we live life under the sun?
2. Will our lives make a difference?

Learn from life's difficulties

❖ **Ecclesiastes 7:1-6**

1. Learn that character and wisdom are more precious than stuff
 - ❖ Proverbs 22:1—*A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches*
 2. Learn that character and wisdom can be gained in difficult circumstances
 - ❖ Matthew 5:3—*Blessed are the poor in spirit*
 - ❖ Matthew 5:4—*Blessed are those who mourn*
 - ❖ Matthew 5:10—*Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness 'sake*
 - ❖ Matthew 5:11—*Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account*
- Funerals are better than births

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- Sorrow is better than gladness
- Rebukes from a wise friend are better than a foolish friend who agrees with you
 - ❖ Proverbs 13:18—*Poverty and disgrace come to him who ignores instruction, but whoever heeds reproof is honored.*
 - ❖ Proverbs 15:31—*The ear that listens to life- giving reproof will dwell among the wise. Whoever ignores instruction despises himself, but he who listens to reproof gains intelligence. The fear of the Lord is instruction in wisdom, and humility comes before honor.*

Avoid the following pitfalls when enduring life's difficulties

❖ **Ecclesiastes 7:7-10**

1. Madness
2. Corruption
 - ❖ Ephesians 5:15-17—*Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is*
3. Impatience
 - ❖ Hebrews 12:3-4—*Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood*
 - ❖ James 1:2-4—*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*
4. Anger
 - ❖ Psalm 37:8—*Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil*
 - ❖ Proverbs 14:29—*Whoever is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who has a hasty temper exalts folly*
 - ❖ James 1:20—*for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God*
5. Living in "the good old days"

The value of wisdom that is gained by enduring life's difficulties

❖ **Ecclesiastes 7:11-12**



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Remember that hard things come from God and he is using them for his good and glorious purposes

❖ **Ecclesiastes 7:13-14**

- ❖ Colossians 3:2—*Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth*
- ❖ Genesis 50:20—*As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today*