



Ecclesiastes

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Lesson 14 Study Notes – Ecclesiastes 7: 1-14

Pray

Reflect

1. In the book of **Ecclesiastes**, Solomon now begins a series of lessons on practical wisdom that extends from **chapter 7: 1** through **chapter 9: 12**. *Read today's verses 7: 1-14.*

2. Remember, at the end of Ecclesiastes 6, the Preacher was in a mournful, discouraged mood as he considered the meaninglessness of life in a world without eternity and accountability in the world beyond. He continues this tone by putting together what 2 truths in **verse 1**?

A.

B.

3. Do you agree with Solomon's statement in **verse 2**? How did Paul confirm this statement in **Phil. 1: 23**?

4. So, while on the one hand, *the day of death* is glorious for the believer, on the other hand, we also rejoice in the meaning God has given us with this life on earth. How so? Can you back it up with scripture?

5. What is Solomon's premise in **verses 3-4**? In the context of these verse, why do you think Solomon says the *heart of the wise is in the house of mourning*?

6. *Read verses 5-9*. In what ways does Solomon contrast wisdom and folly (**in verses 5-9**)?

7. After two proverbs celebrating patience (**v8**), the Preacher warns us against impatience leading to what?

8. Read **verses 10-14**. In **verse 10**, Solomon cautioned against what? Under the sun, the best kind of life is found with what?

9. In **verses 13-14**, Solomon reminds us there is wisdom in life by considering whom? How does Solomon drift into a sense of fatalism?

Respond

1. Wisdom gives us perspective so that we aren't discouraged when times are difficult or arrogant when things are going well. It takes a good deal of spirituality to be able to accept prosperity as well as adversity, for often prosperity does greater damage. Check out **Phil. 4:10-13**. Remember what Job reminded his wife? See **Job 2:10**. God balances our lives by giving us enough blessings to keep us happy and enough burdens to keep us humble. This balance also keeps us steady, as we yield to Him; He can even turn the burdens into blessings. Consider and write out how God is balancing your life right now?