



## Ecclesiastes

Teacher: Ruth Christian

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### Lesson 20 Study Notes – Ecclesiastes 10: 16-20

#### Pray

**Review** – In the last lesson, Solomon laid down an important principle. Folly creates problems for those who commit it. So, a wise person will stay away from folly. We saw that it is the inclination of the heart that makes one wise or foolish. Then Solomon applies the principle to 3 groups of people: foolish ruler/leader, foolish workers, and foolish talkers. Today, in **Ecc. 10: 16-20**, we have the 4<sup>th</sup> group.

#### Reflect

1. Read today's verses. What fourth foolish group do they describe?
2. **Verse 18** pictures the fall of a nation. **Verses 19 & 20** give the reasons for the fall. What are they?
3. So, he is talking about a ruler who has surrounded himself with officials who are incompetent (v18), indifferent (v19), and indiscreet (v20). We may think they verses don't apply to us... or never describe us. Well, they do in a couple ways. **Even if we can't respect a person in office, we must respect the office.** Read the following verses, and write down what you learn that supports this statement.
  - a. Exodus 22: 28
  - b. Romans 13: 1-7
  - c. 1 Peter 2: 13-17

#### Respond

1. I'm sure we have all felt frustrated with our bureaucrats at every level. It is especially frustrating when they seemingly never listen to the majority of the people and we feel they are only working for what they can get out of their position. What

about now? Are you looking at things from a “under the sun” perspective, or a “heavenly perspective”? Explain.