

A Better Way to Live

Ecclesiastes 7:1-12

1. Strive to finish life with a good reputation. (v. 1)
 - a. Proverbs 22:1 A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.
 - b. Proverbs 10:7 The memory of the righteous is a blessing, but the name of the wicked will rot.
 - c. Ecclesiastes 10:1

2. Allow the certainty of death to teach you how to live. (vv. 2-4)
 - a. Matthew 5:4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
 - b. Psalm 90:12 Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.
 - c. Psalm 39:4 Show me, O LORD, my end and the measure of my days. Let me know how fleeting my life is.

3. Pursue what allows for you to finish well. (vv. 5-6)
 - a. Proverbs 27:6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.
 - b. Proverbs 12:1 Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid.
 - c. James 5:20 remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

4. Beware the danger of living for the moment, especially when it comes to money. (v. 7)
 - a. Proverbs 13:11 Wealth from get-rich-quick schemes quickly disappears; wealth from hard work grows over time.

5. Look patiently to the end rather than focus on the beginning. (vv. 8-9)
 - a. Proverbs 14:17 A quick-tempered man acts foolishly, and a devious man is hated.
 - b. Proverbs 14:29 A patient man has great understanding, but a quick-tempered man promotes folly.

6. Don't romanticize the past at the expense of the present. (v. 10)

7. Live with wisdom so you can die with wisdom. (vv. 11-12)

LOOKING AT LIFE BEYOND THE SUN:

- The day of Jesus' birth was great! His death is even more important.

- Jesus' death and resurrection gives us hope beyond this life.
 - John 14:28 You heard me say, 'I am going away and I am coming back to you.' If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.
 - Philippians 1:21-23 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. 22 If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! 23 I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far

- Jesus' death and resurrection tell us that we will stand before Him in judgment after this life.
 - Acts 17:31 For He has set a day when He will judge the world with justice by the Man He has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising Him from the dead."
 - 2 Corinthians 5:8-10 We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. 9So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. 10For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.
 - Hebrews 9:27 Just as man is appointed to die once, and after that to face judgment
 - Colossians 3:2-4 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.