

ECCLESIASTES CHAPTER 7

¹ A good name is better than good oil; and the day of death than the day of birth. ² *It is* better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the banquet house. Since this is the end of every man, and the living man will apply good *warning* to his heart. ³ Sorrow is better than laughter; for by the sadness of the countenance the heart will be made better. ⁴ The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth. ⁵ *It is* better to hear a reproof of a wise man, than for a man to hear the song of fools. ⁶ As the sound of thorns under a caldron, so is the laughter of fools. This is also vanity. ⁷ For oppression makes a wise man mad, and destroys his noble heart. ⁸ The end of a matter is better than the beginning thereof; the patient is better than the high-minded.

⁹ Do not be hasty in your spirit to be angry; for anger will rest in the bosom of fools. ¹⁰ Do not say, "What has happened, that the former days were better than these?" For you do not inquire wisely concerning this. ¹¹ Wisdom is good with an inheritance; and *there is* an advantage *by it* to them that see the sun. ¹² For wisdom in its shadow is as the shadow of silver, and the excellence of the knowledge of wisdom will give life to him that has it. ¹³ Behold the works of God; for who shall be able to straighten him whom God has made crooked?

¹⁴ In the day of prosperity live joyfully, and consider in the day of adversity. Consider, *I say*, God also has caused the one to agree with the other for *this* reason, that man should find nothing after him.

¹⁵ I have seen all things in the days of my vanity; there is a just man perishing in his justice, and there is an ungodly man remaining in his wickedness. ¹⁶ Do not be overrighteous, neither be very wise, lest you be confounded. ¹⁷ Do not be very wicked, and do not be stubborn, lest you should die before your time. ¹⁸ It is good for you to restrain yourself by this; also by this you shall not defile your hand; for to them that fear God all things shall come forth *well*. ¹⁹ Wisdom will help the wise man more than ten mighty men which are in the city. ²⁰ For there is not a righteous man in the earth who will do good, and not sin.

²¹ Also take no heed to all the words which ungodly men shall speak, lest you hear your servant cursing you. ²² For many times he shall trespass against you, and repeatedly shall he afflict your heart; for thus also have you cursed others.

²³ All these things have I proved in wisdom. I said, "I will be wise"; but it was far from me. ²⁴ *That which is* far beyond what was, and a great depth, who shall find it out?

²⁵ I and my heart went round about to know, and to examine, and to seek wisdom, and the account *of things*, and to know the folly and trouble and madness of the ungodly man.

²⁶ And I find her *to be*, and I will pronounce *to be* more bitter than death, the woman which is a snare, and her heart nets, *who has* a band in her hands. *He that is* good in the sight of God shall be delivered from her; but the sinner shall be caught by her. ²⁷

"Behold, this have I found," said the Preacher, *seeking* by one at a time to find out the account, ²⁸ which my soul sought after, though I did not find; for I have found one man of a thousand; but a woman in all these I have not found. ²⁹ But behold, this have I found, that God made man upright; but they have sought out many devices.