

## ECCLESIASTES CHAPTER 10

<sup>1</sup> Pestilent flies will corrupt a preparation of sweet ointment; *and* a little wisdom is more precious than great glory of folly. <sup>2</sup> A wise man's heart is at his right hand, but a fool's heart at his left. <sup>3</sup> And whenever a fool walks down the road, his heart will fail him, and all that he thinks of is folly. <sup>4</sup> If the spirit of the ruler rises up against you, do not leave your place; for soothing will put an end to great offenses.

<sup>5</sup> There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, as an error that has proceeded from the ruler. <sup>6</sup> The fool has been set in very high places, while rich men would sit in a low one. <sup>7</sup> I have seen servants upon horses, and princes walking as servants on the earth.

<sup>8</sup> He that digs a pit shall fall into it; and him that breaks down a hedge a serpent shall bite. <sup>9</sup> He that quarries stones may be hurt by them; and he that splits wood may be endangered by them. <sup>10</sup> If the ax-head should fall off, then the man troubles his countenance, and he must put forth more strength; and *in that case* skill is of no advantage to a man.

<sup>11</sup> If a serpent bite when there is no *charmer's* whisper, then there is no advantage to the charmer. <sup>12</sup> The words of a wise mouth are gracious, but the lips of a fool will swallow him up. <sup>13</sup> The beginning of the words of his mouth is folly, and the end of his talk mischievous madness. <sup>14</sup> A fool moreover multiplies words. No man knows what has been, nor what will be. Who shall tell him what will come after him? <sup>15</sup> The labor of fools will afflict them, *as that of one* who knows not to go to the city.

<sup>16</sup> Woe to you, O city, whose king is young, and your princes eat in the morning! <sup>17</sup> Blessed are you, O land, whose king is a son of nobles, and whose princes shall eat seasonably, for strength, and shall not be ashamed. <sup>18</sup> By slothful neglect a building will be brought low, and by idleness of the hands the house will fall to pieces. <sup>19</sup> Men prepare bread for laughter, and wine and oil that the living should rejoice; but to money all things will humbly yield obedience. <sup>20</sup> Even in your conscience, do not curse the king; and do not curse the rich in your bedchamber; for a bird of the air shall carry your voice, and that which has wings shall report your speech.