

## Ecclesiastes 10:1-20

- I. Futility. 1:1-2:26
- II. God's Immutable Plan for Life (3:1-22)
- III. The Futility of the Circumstances of Life (4:1-5:20)
- IV. The Futility of Life as a Whole. (6:1-12)
- V. Counsel for Living with Vanity. (7:1-12:8)
  - A. Counsel in View of man's wickedness. (7:1-29)
  - B. Counsel in View of God's Inscrutable Providences. (8:1-9:18)
  - C. Counsel in View of the Uncertainties of Life. (10:1-20)

### 1. Values. 10:1-4

- 1 Dead flies (**ZEBUB**) make a perfumer's oil stink, so a little foolishness is weightier than wisdom and honor.
- 2 A wise man's heart directs him toward the right, but the foolish man's heart directs him toward the left.
- 3 Even when the fool walks along the road, his sense is lacking and he demonstrates to everyone that he is a fool.
- 4 If the ruler's temper rises against you, do not abandon your position, because composure (**YANACH**) allays great offenses.

### Summary:

- 1. Foolishness can do \_\_\_\_\_ quicker than wisdom and honor can do good.
- 2. Wise direction is based on \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3. Foolishness can often be easily \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4. Wisdom holds to what is right, even in the face of \_\_\_\_\_ opposition.

### 2. Anomalies. 10:5-7

- 5 There is an evil I have seen under the sun, like an error which goes forth from the ruler—
- 6 folly is set in many exalted places while rich men sit in humble places.
- 7 I have seen slaves riding on horses and princes walking like slaves on the land.

### Summary:

- 1. Authority can make some serious \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2. Authorities can appoint others to positions of authority who are not \_\_\_\_\_.

3. **Wealthy people can choose to live modestly for a \_\_\_\_\_ of reasons.**
4. **Slaves, who belong to a wealthy and generous master, may have many \_\_\_\_\_ in life.**
5. **While those of \_\_\_\_\_ may be forced to walk instead of ride.**

**3. Wise Living. 10:8-11**

- 8 He who digs a pit may fall into it, and a serpent may bite him who breaks through a wall.
- 9 He who quarries stones may be hurt by them, and he who splits logs may be endangered by them.
- 10 If the axe is dull and he does not sharpen its edge, then he must exert more strength. Wisdom has the advantage of giving success.
- 11 If the serpent bites before being charmed, there is no profit for the charmer.

**Summary:**

1. **Our jobs may bring \_\_\_\_\_ to us.**
2. **We should not live our lives in fear because of all the things that \_\_\_\_\_ happen to us.**
3. **It is wise to do things as safely and \_\_\_\_\_ as possible.**
4. **Dangerous \_\_\_\_\_ may produce no profit.**

- 12 Words from the mouth of a wise man are gracious, while the lips of a fool consume him;
- 13 the beginning of his **(the fool's)** talking is folly and the end of it **(the talking)** is wicked madness.
- 14 Yet the fool multiplies words. No man knows what will happen, and who can tell him what will come after him?
- 15 The toil of a fool so wearies him that he does not even know how to go to a city.

**Summary:**

1. **Foolish people sometimes try to be \_\_\_\_\_ in their speech seeking to impress people. Cf 1 Cor 1:18-25**
2. **Foolishness is \_\_\_\_\_ to the realities of life.**

- 16 Woe to you, O land, whose king is a lad **(NA'AR = young man)** and whose princes feast in the morning.
- 17 Blessed are you, O land, whose king is of nobility and whose princes eat at the appropriate time--for strength and not for drunkenness.
- 18 Through indolence the rafters sag, and through slackness the house leaks.
- 19 Men prepare a meal for enjoyment, and wine makes life merry, and money is the answer to everything.

- 20 Furthermore, in your bedchamber do not curse a king, and in your sleeping rooms do not curse a rich man, for a bird of the heavens will carry the sound and the winged creature will make the matter known.

**Summary:**

1. Lack of wisdom due to lack of \_\_\_\_\_ can unknowingly permit some abuses to power to occur.
2. A land is \_\_\_\_\_ when the king is noble and his authorities adhere to wise laws.
3. Laziness is a \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Some people never figure out life, thinking that “\_\_\_\_\_” will provide everything we need. Cf Matt 6:19-34
5. We must get our \_\_\_\_\_ right toward the Lord God.
6. Malice toward the powers that in authority can lead to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Note:** Solomon uses words for foolishness over 100 times in Proverbs and Ecclesiastes out of the nearly 200 times they are used in the Bible.

### **Ecclesiastes 11:1-10**

**V. Counsel for Living with Vanity. (7:1-12:8)**

- A. Counsel in View of man’s wickedness. (7:1-29)
- B. Counsel in View of God’s Inscrutable Providences. (8:1-9:18)
- C. Counsel in View of the Uncertainties of Life. (10:1-20)
- D. Counsel in View of the Aging Processes of Life (11:1-12:8)

**1. Live Wisely. 11:1-5**

- 1 Cast your bread on the surface of the waters, for you will find it after many days.
- 2 Divide your portion to seven, or even to eight, for you do not know what misfortune may occur on the earth.
- 3 If the clouds are full, they pour out rain upon the earth; and whether a tree falls toward the south or toward the north, wherever the tree falls, there it lies.
- 4 He who watches the wind will not sow and he who looks at the clouds will not reap.
- 5 Just as you do not know the path of the wind and how bones are formed in the womb of the pregnant woman, so you do not know the activity of God who makes all things.

**Summary:**

1. Live wisely with your \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Live wisely with that \_\_\_\_\_ to you.
3. Live wisely with simple \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Live wisely through your \_\_\_\_\_.

5. Live wisely through realized \_\_\_\_\_.

**2. Work Wisely. 11:6**

6 Sow your seed in the morning and do not be idle in the evening, for you do not know whether morning or evening sowing will succeed, or whether both of them alike will be good.

**Summary:**

1. The “six days you shall work” command is explained to mean \_\_\_\_\_ days, not just 8-5.
2. This sounds a lot like, “\_\_\_\_\_ the time.” Eph 5:15-16
3. While our physical labor may not be all day, our \_\_\_\_\_ labor should be.

**3. Rejoice Wisely. 11:7-8**

7 The light is pleasant, and it is good for the eyes to see the sun.

8 Indeed, if a man should live many years, let him rejoice in them all (**years**), and let him remember the days of darkness, for they (**days of darkness**) will be many. Everything that is to come will be futility.

**Summary:**

1. A simple fact is that it is good that we see the \_\_\_\_\_ every day.
2. In the context of good vs evil, we need to \_\_\_\_\_ that some days were evil in our life.

**4. Age Wisely. 11:9-10**

9 Rejoice, young man, during your childhood, and let your heart be pleasant during the days of young manhood. And follow the impulses of your heart and the desires of your eyes. Yet know that God will bring you to judgment for all these things.

10 So, remove grief and anger from your heart and put away pain from your body, because childhood and the prime of life are fleeting.

**Summary:**

1. The old wise man tells the young man to follow his heart, but not to live \_\_\_\_\_.
2. He also advises that it is wise to remove bitterness and anger and to overlook the pain so that you don't \_\_\_\_\_ life.