**Ladies Bible Study**

**Ecclesiastes, Lesson Five**

**Ecclesiastes 7 and 8**

**April 7, 2020**

**Chapter 7:**

**Objective #1: WISDOM**

7:1-12: Vs 1: A good name is better than fine perfume, and the day of death better than the day of birth.

 IT’S IMPORTANT!!!!!!!!!

**HOW DO WE KNOW THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GOOD NAME?**

1. Comparisons used
	1. Wisdom to perfume
	2. Vs 1a- 4: Death to birth: *From God’s perspective*...
2. Why would it be better to be on the day of death rather than birth? Why is it better to go to the house of the mourning rather than the house of feasting? Why is sorrow better than laughter? Why is the heart of the WISE in the house of Mourning rather than in the house of pleasure?

1.

2.

3.

Vs. 5- 10 HOW DO WE DO THIS?! IT IS SO HARD TO MAKE A GOOD NAME!

 Change the verses from proverbs oriented writing to a command.

 Vs. 5: It is better to heed a wise man’s rebuke than to listen to the song of fools.

 Listen to those who know more than you!

 Seek \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Counsel

 Vs. 7: Extortion turns a wise man into a fool, and a bribe corrupts the heart.

 Don’t let \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_control you!

 Vs. 8: The end of a matter is better than its beginning, and patience is better than pride.

Be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

 Vs. 9: Do not be quickly provoked in your spirit, for anger resides in the lap of fools.

Be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Vs. 10: Do not say, “Why were the old days better than these?

For it is not wise to ask such questions.

Live in the present...enjoy it!

Vs. 11-12 WHY SHOULD WE ATTAIN WISDOM?

Vs 11: Wisdom benefits those UNDER THE SUN!

Usually those who are wise avoid many of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in our world.

Vs. 12: Wisdom is a Shelter as money is a shelter.

 Wisdom is a protection!

*OBJECTIVE #1 LIFE APPLICATION: How does it affect the way people view us? How does it affect how people view the Christian faith? What gives one a good name? How does it affect the way people view us? How does it affect how people view the Christian faith?When we leave this earth, will we leave behind a good name?*

**OBJECTIVE #2: GOOD AND BAD**

Vs 13-14: Consider what God has done: Who can straighten what he has made crooked? When times are good, be happy; but when times are bad, consider: **God has made the one as well as the other**. Therefore, a man cannot discover anything about his future.

*OBJECTIVE #2 LIFE APPLICATION: Why is it important to remember that God is involved with both the “good and the bad?” Can some things seem good but really be bad and vice versa?*

**OBJECTIVE #3: RIGHTEOUS VERSES WICKED (Solomon trying to work it out)**

Ecclesiastes 7: 15-18: READ RIGHTEOUS VERSES WICKED

7:15:  In this meaningless life of mine I have seen both of these: the righteous perishing in their righteousness, and the wicked living long in their wickedness.

Remember:

3:17 God will bring to judgment both the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and the wicked, for there will be a time for every activity, a time for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ deed.

8:12: Although a wicked man commits a hundred crimes and still lives a long time, I know that it will go

better with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ men, who are reverent before God.

12:14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is

good or evil.

7:16: Do not be overrighteous, neither be overwise- why destroy yourself?

Remember:

Ephesians: 2:8-9For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from  yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

Romans 3:23: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

Then why should we strive to live righteously?!!!

Remember:

Ecc. 3:17: I said to myself, "God will bring into judgment both the righteous and the wicked, for

there will be a time for every activity, a time to judge every deed."

Ecc 11:9: You who are young, be happy while you are young, and let your heart give you joy in

the days of your youth. Follow the ways of your heart and whatever your eyes see, but know

that for all these things God will bring you into judgment.

2 Cor 5:10:For 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.

1 Cor 4:5: Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will

l bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time

each will receive their praise from God.

Let’s put the puzzle pieces together

 Puzzle Piece #1:  Good things happen to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and bad things to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

 Puzzle Piece #2:  Don’t get too full of yourself...we \_\_\_\_\_\_ make mistakes!

Puzzle Piece #3: We are going to make mistakes but this doesn’t mean we should push sin as being alright. We should strive for righteousness as we will answer for all things but don’t get yourself in a fit...nobody's perfect. PRAISE GOD WE HAVE A SAVIOR THAT TOOK THE PUNISHMENT FOR US!

Ecclesiastes 7: 22-29: Warnings, Observations/ Reflections:

Warning: Ecc 7:21-22 Do not pay attention to every word people say, or you may hear your servant cursing

you-for you know in your heart that many times you yourself have cursed others.

Ecclesiastes 7:21-22: Is this still applicable today?

Observation/ Reflections:

 Ecclesiastes 7:23-29

 He was the wisest man on earth...BUT IT WAS \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ HIM! (vs. 23)

 He tried to investigate and figure it out...the side of wisdom and the side of wickedness.

 He speaks of his stumbling block: WOMEN! (He had 300 wives and 700 concubines)

 God made us upright...we are to stay focused on him.

It is when we go down other roads...then we fall.

Vs. 28b-c: I have found very few one upright man among a thousand, but not one, upright woman among them all.

Man: generic for mankind...NOT MALE

Woman is creating the Hebrew parallelism with man to make the contrast.

Constables paraphrase: “I have found very few people who please God, no one really at all really.”

 IT IS NOT LITERAL!!!! Remember in Proverbs, Solomon personified wisdom as a responsible woman.

Vs 29: This only have I found: God made mankind upright, but men have gone in search of many schemes (devices, explanations).”

 What does this mean? Referring back to 25 (scheme of things):

*OBJECTIVE #3 LIFE APPLICATION: How are you doing at living righteously?*

**Chapter 8: PRAISING WISDOM BUT ALSO SHOWING ITS LIMITATIONS**

**OBJECTIVE #1: 8:1-10: OBEDIENCE AND WISDOM**

Ecclesiastes 8:1-2:

Who is like the wise? Who knows the explanation of things? A person’s wisdom brightens their face and changes its hard appearance.

How does Godly wisdom affect our appearance?

SIDE THOUGHT: Who do you know that radiates wisdom? What about them is “different?”

How do we gain this wisdom?

Proverbs 9:10: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Ecclesiastes 8:2-10 Authority and Obedience

Background: During this time, the king held great power. To upset the king brought wrath. Keep this in mind when reading verses 2-10.

8:2: This was probably addressing a personal assistant to the king and when one took this type of oath, it was an oath to God.

8:3: To leave quickly from the king, to stand up against the king...this was not a smart move...WRATH!

Does this still apply? Check the authority: THE BIBLE

* Hebrews 13:17  (Pastors)

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

* Romans 13:1-2 (Government)

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.

* Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.
* 1 Peter 2:18(Boss)

Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust.

*Objective # 1 Life Application Question: Have you ever been under authority of someone you found difficult to be submissive to?  How did you handle it?*

 In verse 6, Solomon advises us how to handle difficult situations...what does he suggest?

For there is a proper time and procedure for every matter  though a person may be weighed down by misery.

**OBJECTIVE #2: GOOD THINGS HAPPEN TO BAD PEOPLE AND BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE. (VS. 11-15)**

Vs 14-16: What other verses are these reminiscent of?

7:15-16

KEY: vs14: There is something else meaningless that occurs on earth: **RIGHTEOUS** men who get what the wicked deserve, and **WICKED** men who get what the righteous deserve. This too, I say, is meaningless.

**OBJECTIVE #3: MAN CANNOT UNDERSTAND GOD’S WAYS- NO MATTER HOW WISE (VS. 16-17)**

Solomon’s Conclusion: Vs 16-17 When I applied my mind to know wisdom and to observe man's labor on earth- his eyes not seeing sleep day or night (over working) then I saw all that God has done. One can comprehend what goes on under the sun. Despite all his efforts to search it out, man cannot discover its meaning. Even if a wise man claims he knows, he cannot really comprehend it.

It’s okay if we don’t get it! Solomon didn’t get it and he was the wisest man alive! WE do not have the ability to comprehend all that God is, how he works, his ways...we are mere humans and we are to trust knowing that God is good, he IS sovereign, he IS comfort, he IS peace, he IS the almighty...HE IS GOD!

**Ladies Bible Study**

**Observations Sheet for Lesson 5**

**Read Ecclesiastes 9**

* What is the “evil event” that all must face eventually that the author talks about in verses 1 & 2 and finally names in verse 3?
* What are some of the things we are to enjoy while on this earth? (verses 7-10)
* Solomon makes it clear in verses 11 & 12, that life will not always seem fair to us. What are examples of when you have seen this “unfairness”? Have you seen how God worked through the situation? How?