

## Ecclesiastes Chapter 10:1-10 Word Search

S H F H T Y D T V S E P Y G M  
 S H Y O C L T S E B I J X U P  
 X A A F E L T I D T B R F Q L  
 M S Y R C O L N H U X J S H M  
 B V E M P F L S M W L N E C W  
 Q Q T S S E C N I R P L R C H  
 V V E P R L N S T Q W A P Y G  
 M B K G Q O U O S M O I E Y D  
 H E A R T C H T G I D J N S J  
 H B P C C K N F B F M W T T Q  
 D F U E H A B K R L M Q S P I  
 I G S J V D I G N I T Y W C X  
 W S Q R L P U B T J X T A X K  
 N G E S N U R Z G D G L L Q D  
 Z S I U J P W H U T K D L G L

DULL  
HEART  
PRINCES  
SHARPEN

DIGNITY  
FOLLY  
PIT  
SERVANTS  
WALL

DIG  
FLIES  
HORSES  
SERPENT  
SUCCESS

### Memory Verse

“A wise man’s heart is at his right hand,  
 but a fool’s heart at his left.” - Ecclesiastes 10:2

I have completed my Bible studies for the following days:

- ☐ Lord's Day & Monday
- ☐ Tuesday
- ☐ Wednesday
- ☐ Thursday
- ☐ Friday & Saturday

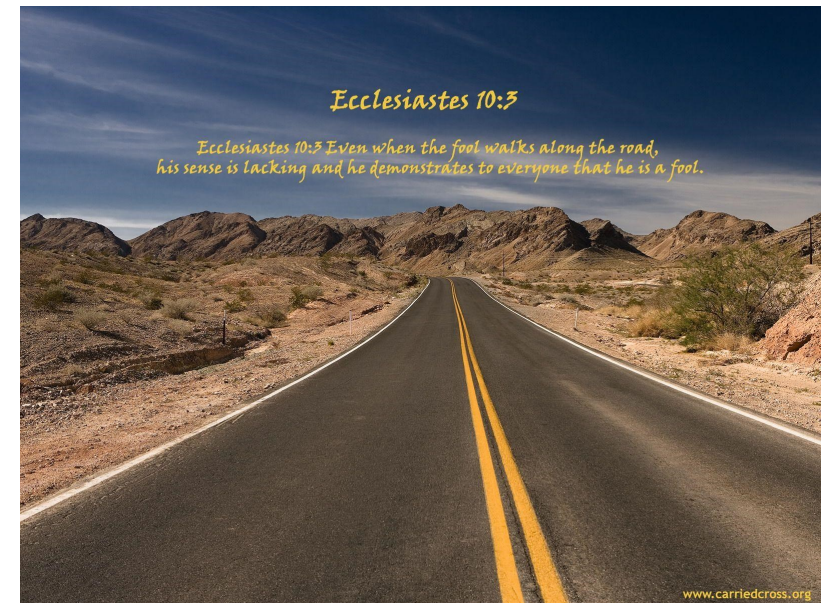
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## Daily Bible Studies

### September 22 - September 28, 2013

### “The Fool and Foolishness”

### Ecclesiastes 10:1 - 10



## The Lord's Day & Monday

Read **Ecclesiastes 10:1—10**.

The 10th chapter of Ecclesiastes probably will remind you of the book of Proverbs. In this chapter, Solomon describes some of the advantages of wisdom, but he also writes many words to describe the danger of foolishness. Remember that Solomon saw all of the things that he described. He saw fools make unwise decisions to their own hurt and it is very likely that he often acted foolishly against the wisdom of God. Be thankful that God has written down these things so that you might be warned and kept from danger and harm.

Here are some Scriptures to think about as you prepare to study God's Word this week:

The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." - Psalm 14:1

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

- 1st Corinthians 1:18

...The base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence. But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God--and righteousness and sanctification and redemption-- that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the LORD."

1st Corinthians 1:28-31

Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches; But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the LORD. - Jeremiah 9:23-24

## Friday & Saturday Activity

Write down three things you learned from this week's study:

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. \_\_\_\_\_  
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3. \_\_\_\_\_  
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## Prayer

Pray about today's lesson. Here is an idea of what you could pray:

"Jesus, you have promised that those that wait upon the Lord will renew their strength. Remind me Lord that I need to pray and spend time with you. Help me to enjoy that time and long for. I truly have no strength or power without you."

Pray for the Lord's Day service:

1. Pray that everyone would think it is important to come and be able to come.
2. Pray for Sunday School and Pastor Tim's sermon.
3. Pray that we would encourage each other to love the Lord Jesus.

## Friday & Saturday

The last reading for this week is **Ecclesiastes 10:10**.

This final verse is very closely related to yesterday's verses. If you try to chop a tree with a dull ax, you will find that you have to try at least ten times harder than you would with a sharpened ax. Not only that, but as we mentioned yesterday, you may injure yourself when the ax simply bounces off the tree and hits you! A wise man sharpens his ax or his lawnmower first. It may seem like he is wasting time and effort to sit in his garage and sharpen the blade, but when his trees and lawn are cut quickly and his foolish neighbor is frustrated and getting nowhere, he will realize that sharpening his tools was a wise use of time.

This is true in the spiritual realm as well. I usually want to get right to work when I have something to do. I think, "I don't have time to pray! I need to get going!" The reality though is that we need to kneel before God and pray. We need to ask for his help and tell him how much we need him. We need to ask God to sharpen our spiritual axes for us. If we fail to take this time with God, we will find our efforts to be vain and frustrating. We will lack God's blessings and not find them until we depend upon God and the wisdom that he gives in the Bible and through prayer.



## The Lord's Day & Monday Activity

1. Read 1st Corinthians 1:27-28. What kind of things has God chosen?  
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2. God wants us to pursue His wisdom, but 1st Corinthians tells us that God does not often choose the people that appear to be wise in the world's eyes. Why not? Read 1st Corinthians 1:29.  
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3. What is our source of wisdom according to 1st Cor. 1:30?  
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4. What else are we the recipient of in 1st Cor. 1:30?  
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5. If all of these good things are found in and come from Jesus, do we have anything to brag or boast about?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What should our bragging and boasting be about?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Prayer

Lord Jesus, please help me this week. I need to be changed by your Word. Help me to act wisely and to avoid the dangers of foolishness.

Pray for your family:

1. Dad and Mom                      2. Brothers and Sisters
3. Grandpas, Grandmas, Uncles, Aunts, and Cousins

## Tuesday

Today we will be reading **Ecclesiastes 10:1-3**.

This chapter is basically a collection of Proverbs so let's look at most of them one by one.

**Verse 1:** Remember Solomon said in Ecclesiastes 7:1, "A good name is better than precious ointment." In other words, it is better to have a reputation as a God-fearing and wise man, than it is to own expensive perfume or other expensive things. If you have that reputation, Solomon warns you that it is easily lost. He says that in the same way that a beautiful perfume or a bowl of soup is ruined when a disgusting bug falls into it and rots, so too does just one moment of foolishness ruin the wise man's reputation. If you are living a godly life that honors God, many people will be watching you. They want to know if Jesus is real, so they watch Jesus' people to see if they will slip up. Sometimes they may even be jealous of the blessings that God gives you and they will desire that you fall. Their eyes are on you and they are waiting for you to act foolishly just once so they can say, "Aha! I knew Jesus was a fake. You think you are such a good person, but you are a hypocrite." The Bible tells us in many places, that just like a little bit of yeast spreads through an entire ball of bread dough, foolishness and sin quickly spread and bring destruction even in the wise man's life.

**Verse 2:** The right hand symbolizes power, strength, and skill. On judgment day, God will put His people on the right hand side and those that are going to Hell on His left hand side. When Solomon says "the wise man's heart is at his right hand," he is saying that the heart is in an honorable and righteous place. Or perhaps he is saying that the wise man is strong and skilled in controlling his heart. On the other hand the fool is led astray and deceived by his heart. He tries but fails to control it with his left hand.

**Verse 3:** The strange thing about fools is that they often think that they are very wise. The old story, "The Emperor's New Clothes" comes to mind. Remember he thought he was wearing elegant clothing, but he was really marching in his own parade butt naked. It seems like a silly story, but it accurately describes fools. They walk around thinking and claiming that they are wise. They put other people down and refuse to listen and be taught, but eventually (usually sooner rather than later) it becomes obvious to everyone that they are fools or as we say today, idiots.

## Thursday Quiz

1. Read Psalms 7:15-16. (ESV) Fill in the blanks.

"He makes a \_\_\_\_\_, digging it out, and falls into the \_\_\_\_\_ that he has made. His mischief \_\_\_\_\_ upon his \_\_\_\_\_ head, and on his own skull his violence descends.

2. Write out Proverbs 26:27.

The nations have sunk in the pit that they made; in the net that they hid, their own foot has been caught. The LORD has made himself known; he has executed judgment; the wicked are snared in the work of their own hands.

- Psalms 9:15 - 16

## Prayer

Pray about today's lesson. Here is an idea of what you could pray:

"Heavenly Father, please deliver me from my enemies. Keep me from falling into their traps and keep me from the desire to get revenge. I trust you to deal with my enemies in whatever way you say is best. I am so thankful that you love and protect me."

Pray for the leaders of our government. As always, pray that they would fear and honor the Lord Jesus with the decisions they make.

1. Luke S. Stewart (Salamanca City Council)
2. Eric T. Schneiderman (NYS Attorney General)
3. Eric Holder (US Attorney General)

## Thursday

Today, you should read **Ecclesiastes 10:8-9**.

The two verses that we are studying today are a bit strange.

Solomon could be telling us that work is dangerous and he may be reminding us to make careful plans and to be safe while we are working.

In my opinion, Solomon is warning us against behavior that is more foolish than forgetting to put your safety glasses on when there are woodchips and sawdust flying everywhere. I think he is warning us against very serious levels of foolishness.

First, he says that “he who digs a pit will fall into it.” David said in Psalm 57:6 that his enemies dug a pit, hoping that David would fall in. To our surprise, it is not David that fell in but his enemies, the same people who dug it. Solomon has told us that sometimes it appears that the wicked get away with their evil, but it also seems that Solomon has seen quite a few wicked and foolish people get what they deserve when they fall into the traps that they had set for other people. This happens a lot when people tell intricate webs of lies to promote themselves and destroy others. They soon find themselves tangled in their own web.

Second, he says that “whoever breaks through a wall will be bitten by a serpent.” Walls or thick rows of bushes were often and still are used to mark a person’s property and to tell other people, “Stay out!” Well, there are lots of boundaries in this life that we are not to cross. You don’t have the right to hop the fence and take things out of your neighbor’s yard and you don’t have the right to crash through a person’s emotional walls and break their heart either. God warns that if you start smashing down walls that you are not supposed to, he might just put a snake behind the next stone ready to punish and correct you.

Lastly, he speaks of fools messing with things that they should not. Digging stones out of the earth and chopping down big, strong trees is tough, dangerous business. It requires thought and a serious, alert mind. As you strain and sweat to accomplish these things, the stones may fall on your head or your ax may break or bounce off the tree landing in your gut or leg. In the same way, when a fool tries to change a person or a thing without wisdom, he may find the problem so stubborn that not only does he fail to make progress, he also hurts himself in the process. After he pulls the ax out of his leg, hopefully he will learn to approach things a bit more wisely next time.

## Tuesday Quiz

1. Read Matthew 6:13, 26:41. How can we apply those verses to Ecclesiastes 10:1?  

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2. List the things that are found at God’s right hand. Matt. 25:33-34, Ephesians 1:20, Psalms 16:11.  

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3. According to Romans 1:21-22 what “causes” people to become fools?  
They \_\_\_\_\_ God...they did not \_\_\_\_\_ God...  
they professed to be \_\_\_\_\_...they became \_\_\_\_\_.

## Prayer

Pray about today’s lesson. Ask your mom and dad if they will pray with you as well. Here is an idea of what you could pray: “Father, help me to represent you well in this world. Please keep me from acting foolishly and bringing shame to your name in the eyes of those that are watching me. Help me to be wise and in control of my heart. Finally, Lord, do not let me deceive myself and think I am wise when I am a fool.”

Pray for your church family:

1. Mr. Tim Austin
2. Mrs. Elaine Bartlett
3. Ms. Laura Bowman and Ziarre

## Wednesday

Please read **Ecclesiastes 10:4-7**.

**Verse 4:** Sometimes you will find that a parent, a teacher, or even a boss at work is upset with you. Perhaps you were irresponsible or you made a mistake. In those cases, their anger is probably justified. In other cases, you may have done nothing wrong, but they are angry with you for no apparent reason. In any case, how are you to react? Are you supposed to get angry and quit? Run away and pout? No! Solomon tells us not to leave our posts. Be responsible and continue to do your duty. Continue to show honor, respect, and kindness to your authority. Most importantly, if you are the one to blame, acknowledge your sin, ask for forgiveness, and strive to do better the next time. Solomon noticed that when you do these things your authorities will often calm down and you will have shown them a wonderful example of meekness, honesty, and integrity.

**Verses 5 - 7:** I find these verses from Solomon to be very interesting. What does he say? He tells us that rulers often make a foolish mistake: The rulers promote and honor foolish people. They applaud them and give them awards. At the same time, wise people are overlooked and pushed to the side. They are regarded as stupid and unimportant. This is an important thought to consider. First, pray that God guards you from bitterness. When the world appears to be exactly the opposite of what it should, be do not become angry. Do not become self-righteous and think, "Boy, the teacher was really dumb to pick Joey for the spelling contest instead of me and my superior brain." Second, even the world reminds us that things are not always as they appear. Be careful not to prejudge people. Just because a person has a low paying job, a rusty car, out of style clothes, etc. you cannot assume that they are a fool. He may very well be one of the wisest people that you meet. Likewise, don't automatically assume that a rich man with several college degrees, a fancy house, and a sports car is wise. It is very possible that he is a fool with little understanding.

## Wednesday Quiz

1. What does Proverbs 15:1 mean?

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2. What person from the book of Genesis was wise, but found himself dishonored and cast aside?

3. Is Jesus wise? Worthy of honor? How was he treated while on earth? How is he treated by people today?

4. Read James 2:1-13. Ask God to forgive you for the ways that you have sinned in this area. Go talk with your mom and dad about it.

### Prayer

Lord, help me not to judge by the outward appearance of things. Forgive me for showing favoritism to certain people and for not trusting you when everything seems to be wrong with the world. I believe that you work in ways that I do not expect and I thank you that your ways are good.

Pray for missionaries who tell others about Jesus:

Mr. Paul and Mrs. Erica Simone: Imagine you live in a place where Bibles, churches, and pastors are all illegal. You know nothing about Jesus, but one day you turn on your radio and hear the word of God. Wouldn't that be wonderful? The Simone family sets up radio stations, so the gospel can go places that it is not allowed. "...the word of God is not bound." - 2 Timothy 2:9

