

Daily Bible Studies
June 23 -
June 29, 2013
“Words of Wisdom”
Ecclesiastes 7:1 - 12

Memory Verse

It is better to go to the house of mourning,
than to go to the house of feasting:
for that is the end of all men;
and the living will lay it to his heart.

— Ecclesiastes 7:2

I have completed my Bible studies for the following days:

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

Signature

The Lord's Day & Monday

Read **Ecclesiastes 7:1-12** this week.

As you read this passage, you will see that Solomon gives us a lot of good things to think about. As he always has, Solomon will point us toward thinking on things of eternal importance rather than on what is temporary and passing away.

He will draw quite a few comparisons that we need to think about, learn from, and be changed by including:

1. Your birthday and the day you die.
2. Mourning (sadness about serious things) and mirth (noisy, silliness, careless playing and partying).
3. The rebukes of the wise and the laughter of fools.
4. The patient, calm person who is full of faith and the explosive, angry person who is controlled by his circumstances.

Young ladies and gentlemen, what is said in God's Word this week is very, very important for you to listen to. In my opinion, we live in a society that has no understanding of, or maybe we just don't care for, the things that Solomon will teach us. We are a silly people, giving our energy to things that don't matter. There is lots of noisy activity that amounts to literally nothing, but very little thoughtful consideration about the Lord and His ways. I am not the Lord, but I challenge you this week to think about what your life will be all about. Will you be known as a wise man or woman and live out your days that way or will you live like a clown only to find out that God always gets the last laugh.

Friday & Saturday Quiz

Review the week's lessons. Write down some things you learned, then go tell your parents and/or one of the elders.

Prayer

Pray about today's lesson. Ask your mom and dad if they will pray with you. Here is an idea of what you could pray:

"Lord help me to do my best today. I know that living in the past will not glorify you. Others will think that you are not a God who is alive today, but you are, Jesus. Help me to show that in my life. Thank you for loving me this week. I love 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 final reading for this week is **Ecclesiastes 7:10-12**.

Today, like yesterday, we have warnings not to be discontent with our present circumstances. Specifically, we are told not to long for the way things used to be.

I am often guilty of this. I ask God, "Why do I have to live in this time with evil TV shows, evil movies, evil websites, with unintelligent, unthinking people? Why? Why couldn't I live in the days of great men?"

The thinking that leads to questions like these is sinful. First, it reveals an obvious sinful pride. I think I am too good and too smart for this "stupid" time and people. Second, it shows a distrust of and discontentment with God's wise and perfect plan. Third, it fails to recognize what Solomon has already told us to be true; "there is nothing new under the sun." Every time and generation has this in common: sin. It may take different forms, but people always have been and always will be afflicted by sin (until the last day).

The bottom line for us is to be content with the circumstances that God has placed us in. We should not look at the past and the future as though we should be there instead of here right now. Live for the glory of God with all of your might today. Let the past be past and faithfully believe that God has wisely planned the future.

Finally this week Solomon says, "Wisdom is good with and inheritance...for wisdom is a defense as money is a defense." This means that both wisdom and money offer you protection in difficult times. But notice that wisdom and money are mentioned together. Without godly wisdom, money can be a curse. With wisdom, money will indeed prove useful in hard times. So, which is more important to have: wisdom or money? The right answer is wisdom; therefore, spend your energy seeking wisdom above all things.

The Lord's Day & Monday Activity

Read, think, and pray about about this passage that Solomon wrote:

"How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? For scorners delight in their scorning, And fools hate knowledge. Turn at my rebuke; Surely I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you. Because I have called and you refused, I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded, Because you disdained all my counsel, And would have none of my rebuke, I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your terror comes, When your terror comes like a storm, And your destruction comes like a whirlwind, When distress and anguish come upon you. "Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently, but they will not find me. Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the LORD, They would have none of my counsel [And] despised my every rebuke. Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way, And be filled to the full with their own fancies. For the turning away of the simple will slay them, And the complacency of fools will destroy them; But whoever listens to me will dwell safely, And will be secure, without fear of evil."

-Proverbs 1:22-33

Prayer

Pray about today's lesson: "Lord Jesus, I thank you that you are a forgiver of sins for I am a sinner and I need forgiveness. Thank you that you justify the ungodly. Lord, you have told us not to be drunk with wine. Well, I am sometimes drunk with goofiness and pleasure. Please snap me out of it. Help me see things clearly and fill me with your Spirit."

Pray for your family:

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

Tuesday

Ecclesiastes 7:1-2 is the text for today.

Which is a better way to die? One man dies with a bad reputation. He is well dressed, with nice make up and beautiful flowers to cover the awful look of death, and he lays in a coffin made of silver. Another man who was known for fearing and worshipping the Lord dies clothed in rags. He has no fancy coffin and doesn't even have a stone to mark his name on his grave.

The word of God tells us it is better to be the second man. It is better to have a good name (among all men, but especially among others who know and love God) than it is to have the "fine" things of this world.

When the Bible talks about ointment in these verses, you have to remember that when the Bible was written there were no showers or bath tubs in your house. People probably stunk most of the time, but wealthy people could afford to buy ointments and cover up their stink. It would kind of be like buying perfume, lotion and makeup. Also, remember the story about Lazarus ("Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been *dead* four days.") and remember that the women covered Jesus in different "ointments" before they buried him.

What's the point? The point is a lot of people make a big mistake in fixing up their outside but ignoring the inside. Remember Jesus' called the Pharisees "whitewashed tombs." They looked good on the outside, but they were dead on the inside. You are being warned not to fall into the same trap. Don't look good on the outside, but stay ugly and stinky on the inside; dead in your trespasses and sins. **(Ephesians 2:1)**

Solomon also says this: "*and the day of death than the day of one's birth; Better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting, for that is the end of all men; and the living will take it to heart.*" Consider that most people like to celebrate babies being born and birthdays. There is real joy in that, but you will receive more benefit by considering not that you were born, but rather that you will die. It is better to sit somberly in a funeral and realize that you will end up like the dead man one day than it is to cut cake and open presents.

Your birthday brings you into a world of sin and trouble, but for those in Christ, your "deathday" brings freedom from sin that you have longed for. Take these things to heart, Solomon says, which means think about them. Do that today.

Thursday Quiz

True or False

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1. When we are wronged we should get even. | T | F |
| 2. A wise man can be tempted to do the wrong thing when he knows that he has been wronged. | T | F |
| 3. Patience and humility are key to overcoming temptation during difficult times. | T | F |
| 4. When we are suffering we should do anything to make it stop. | T | F |
| 5. What you and I deserve is Hell. | T | F |
| 6. Anger rests in the bosom of the wise. | T | F |

Prayer

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

"Father, help me to be patient and content in all of the circumstances that you ordain for me. I am sorry when I grow impatient and fail to trust you. I need your help, because I am quick to be offended and think that things aren't going my way."

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. April Vecchiarella, City Clerk of Salamanca
2. Tamara Bonomo, President, Association of City & Village Clerks
3. Karen L. Hass, Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives

Thursday

Today you should read **Ecclesiastes 7:7-9**.

Today we see the temptation and danger of taking “short cuts.”

Solomon says that oppression, or unfairness created by corrupt men, can cause the wise man to lose his reason. Even a wise man when he feels he is being treated unfairly will be tempted to quickly do something to “fix” the situation instead of patiently trusting in the Lord Jesus. He himself might even resort to acting corruptly and oppressing others in an attempt to set things right and “get ahead.” Of course this is a sin and we must guard against this temptation. Even worldly wisdom says, “Two wrongs don’t make a right.”

How do we guard against this temptation? We must maintain a patient and humble spirit before God. Remember that if you are God’s child, the oppression that you are suffering under or witnessing, is part of God’s plan to make you more like him. Don’t try to make it stop as quickly as you can by any means possible. Believe that the end (becoming more like Jesus) of what you are experiencing is better than the beginning (“unfair” suffering).

Be patient. God is in control. Do not be quick to be angry and fight to “get what you deserve.” Remember that you deserve Hell. Solomon tells us that anger rests in the bosom, or heart, of fools.

So next time you feel you are being treated unfairly, you start to get angry, you start giving people a “piece of your mind,” and you start “fighting fire with fire,” remember that the Bible calls you a fool and repent.

“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.” - 1st Peter 5:6

Tuesday Quiz

1. What are some ways you can maintain a good name?

2. Why does a Christian, in one sense, look forward to the day that he will die?

3. Is it enough just to make people *think* you have a good name?

4. What was the Pharisees’ problem?

Prayer

Pray about today’s lesson. Here is an idea of what you could pray: “Dear Lord, help me not to be a hypocrite. I pray Lord that what I present to people on the outside matches up with my heart on the inside. Please help to have a good name, so that people will praise and glorify you.””

Pray for your church family:

1. Mr. and Mrs. Burger
2. Mrs. Sandy Carbone
3. Ms. Britany Clark

Wednesday

Please read **Ecclesiastes 7:3-6**.

Sorry to be so serious this week, but Solomon is telling us that we need to be serious. He tells us it is better to be sorrowful and sad than it is to laugh. Why is that you ask? Think about it. We live in a sinful world and we are sinful people. There is much evil and heartache around and in us. If we are constantly laughing and acting like everything is a joke, we probably do not have a clear picture of reality. We need to stop being so ignorant and open our eyes.

Now, when we do see things more clearly, that this life is not a bunch of hearts and flowers, what do we do? Do we become depressed, throw our hands in the air, and give up? No, the godly man goes to his Lord. He asks forgiveness for his own sins, believes they are forgiven and that God loves him, and finally asks that God would use him as a righteous influence in this world.

One way that we are awakened to the sinful reality that we live in, instead of sleep-walking in a dream world, is through the ministry of godly friends. Solomon says, "It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise than for a man to hear the song of fools." In Proverbs he says, "Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful." All of this tells us that a good and godly friend will point out our sins and failures to us. When we are self-absorbed and careless, they will remind us to wake up, repent, and be alert. If you have a friend like this, do not take them for granted and praise the Lord for the gift he has given you. It takes a lot of courage to look at a person and lovingly tell them they are wrong. Make sure you respond with joy and repentance, not anger and stubbornness.

On the other hand, a fool does not rebuke you. He sings songs to you. As Paul said to Timothy they itch your ears and tell you things you want to hear. They want you to like them, so they will never rebuke you. Unfortunately, this means they really don't care about you, because they are content to let you remain in your sin. The fool is also carefree. When people try to rebuke a fool or talk seriously with him, the fool just laughs at the person. Solomon compares this foolish laughter to a few twigs on a camp fire. They will burn brightly for a few moments, but not long enough to cook anything. In the same way, the fool will laugh and bluster when he is rebuked, but his fire will soon die out.

Wednesday Quiz

1. Is it better to be serious or silly? Sorrowful and sad or always careless and laughing?

2. We are to be serious, but should we be depressed and going around ruining everyone's happiness?

3. What part of life makes it necessary to be serious?

4. What will a good friend do to help you?

Prayer

Pray about today's lesson. Here is an idea of what you could pray: "Lord Jesus, thank you that you rebuke me with your word. Help me to truly be grateful for this and please give me friends that will bless me in the same way. Help me to receive rebuke humbly and change as a result of it."

Pray for missionaries who tell others about Jesus:

This week's missionaries are the Meyers. Remember that Mr. Meyers helps train pastors in the country of South Africa.

