

A good name is better than precious ointment

Review

1. Understand the danger of being proud and arrogant in our pursuits of worldly things
 - a) Not understanding that we are but men
 - b) We end up contending with God
 - c) Our pursuits end in vanity
2. The challenge to pursue the right and good things
 - a) Pursue the knowledge of God
 - b) Pursue a life of righteousness

The value of a good name

"A good name is better than precious ointment, And the day of death than the day of one's birth;" Ecc1 7:1

1. A good name
2. More worth than precious ointment
3. Cf. Prov 22:1
"A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, loving favour rather than silver and gold."
4. A good name is related to death
5. The day of death is better
 - a) The day of birth is a special day to be celebrated
 - b) The day of death is better
6. Examples of people with good names
 - a) Seven chosen men Acts 6:3
 - b) Timothy Acts 16

Going to the house of mourning

"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." Eccl 7:2

1. A comparison

- a) The house of mourning
- b) The house of feasting

2. A house of mourning is better than a house of feasting

3. A comparison between mourning and laughter

"Sorrow is better than laughter, for by a sad countenance the heart is made better. The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth."

Eccl 7:3,4

- a) When we go to the house of mourning
- b) The heart is more sober and serious about understanding life
- c) Laughter is in the house of feasting

4. Ps 90 ... A Psalm of Moses

- a) Death Ps 90:3
- b) The shortness of life compared to Ps 90:4-6
- c) A normal life span Ps 90:10
- d) Much of what life is Ps 90:10
- e) A prayer to number our days Ps 90:12-14

Lessons to be learned

1. The challenge of having a good name

2. Going to the house of mourning

- a) Learn lessons
- b) Understand the fragility of life
- c) Pray for wisdom to number our days
- d) Look to the Lord's compassion and mercy