

CHOOSING THE THINGS THAT ARE BETTER

Eccl. 7:1-4

DISCERNING THE THINGS WHICH ARE BETTER

“A good name *is* better than precious ointment,
And the day of death than the day of one’s birth;...” Eccl. 7:1

1. A good name
 - a. Having a name
 - b. Having a good name
 - c. It is better than precious ointment
2. Day of death
 - a. It is a day where all things end
 - b. It is better than the day of birth

BETTER TO GO INTO THE HOUSE OF MOURNING

1. A comparison between being in the house of mourning or the house of feasting

“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

- a. Better to be in the house of mourning
- b. Than to be in the house of feasting
2. Being in the house of mourning is better than being in the house of mirth

“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. A time for everything under heaven Eccl. 3:1-4
 - i. A time to sorrow
 - ii. A time to rejoice
 - iii. There is a time to sorrow and a time to laugh
- b. The house of mourning
 - i. Learning to sorrow with others
 - ii. The heart is made better
- c. The house of mirth
 - i. The context is one of living life frivolously

- ii. Having the heart of a fool
- iii. Time is foolishly wasted
- iv. Having a drinking culture

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. Learning to develop a good name
2. Seeking to choose that which is wiser
 - a. To be in the house of mourning
 - b. Rather than being in the house of mirth
3. Cultivating a better heart as we see death