

Review

1. The challenge of having a good name
2. Going to the house of mourning to learn

Making comparisons

1. Solomon sought to make comparisons between different situations
2. He advises on which is better

Better to hear the rebuke of the wise

"It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise than for a man to hear the song of fools."

Ecc 7:5

1. Hearing the rebuke of the wise
2. Hearing the songs of fools

3. Laughter of fools

"For like the crackling of thorns under a pot, so is the laughter of the fool. This also is vanity." Ecc 7:6

4. Prov 9:8,9

"Rebuke a wise man, and he will love you. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a just man, and he will increase in learning."

The danger of using oppression and bribery

"Surely oppression destroys a wise man's reason, and a bribe debases the heart." Ecc 7:7

1. Oppression can affect the mind
2. Taking a bribe can affect the heart
3. Ps 62:10-12

"Do not trust in oppression, nor vainly hope in robbery; If riches increase, do not set your heart on them. God has spoken once, twice I have heard this: That power belongs to God. Also to You, O Lord, belongs mercy; for You render to each one according to his work."

- a) Things that we do not want to trust, hope and set our heart on
- b) Things that we do want to trust, hope and set our heart on

Better to look at the end

"The end of a thing is better than its beginning;" Eccl 7:8

1. The beginning of a thing
2. The end of a thing
3. Better the end

Better to be patient in spirit

"The patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit. Do not hasten in your spirit to be angry, for anger rests in the bosom of fools." Eccl 7:8,9

1. The patient in spirit
2. The proud in spirit
3. Spirit of anger
4. Other passages

a) Prov 14:29

"He who is slow to wrath has great understanding, but he who is impulsive exalts folly."

b) Prov 16:32

"He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city."

c) Ps 37:7,8

"Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him; do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; do not fret—it only causes harm."

Lessons learned

1. To be humble...to receive rebukes and learn from them
2. To guard against sinful acts such as oppression and taking a bribe
3. To be patient in spirit rather than being proud and angry