

IT IS BETTER TO HEAR THE REBUKE OF THE WISE

Eccl. 7:5-9

REVIEW

1. A good name is better than precious ointment
2. The day of death is better than the day of birth
3. The house of mourning is better than the house of feasting
4. Sorrow is better than laughter

LEARNING FROM REBUKES

“It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise than for a man to hear the song of fools. For like the crackling of thorns under a pot, so is the laughter of the fool. This also is vanity.” Eccl. 7:5-6

1. The rebuke of the wise
 - a. Rebukes are meant to bring about correction when one is wrong
 - b. When a person listens to rebukes and responds to them, they will be wiser
2. The songs of fools
 - a. The songs of fool are empty words
 - b. There is nothing to learn from the songs of fools
 - c. The laughter of a fool
 - i. It is like the crackling of thorns under a pot
 - ii. Branches with thorns will make a crackling sound when it is burning

OPPRESSION AND BRIBES

*“Surely oppression destroys a wise man’s reason,
And a bribe debases the heart.”* Eccl. 7:7

1. Oppression
 - a. The oppressed have no comforter Eccl. 4:1
 - b. A person who is constantly oppressed
 - c. His wise reasoning can fail
2. Bribes
 - a. Money can affect a person’s integrity
 - b. The love of money can debase a person’s heart

MORE “BETTER” THINGS

1. The end is better than its beginning

“The end of a thing is better than its beginning;...” Eccl. 7:8

- a. The beginning of a matter
 - i. Many things to do
 - ii. Life would be hard
 - b. The end of a matter is better
2. The patient is better than the proud 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

- a. The patient in spirit
- b. The proud in spirit
- c. The proud hastens to be angry
- d. Anger rests in the bosom of fools

PERSONAL APPLICATION

- 1. Learning well from rebukes
- 2. Never use oppression and bribes for personal gain
- 3. Learn to be patient in spirit and not be proud