

**Review**

1. Check whether we have a weak understanding of God
2. The challenge is to have a strong theology of God

**Understanding the just and the wicked**

"I have seen everything in my days of vanity: There is a just man who perishes in his righteousness, and there is a wicked man who prolongs life in his wickedness." Ecc 7:15

1. Solomon's personal perspective
  - a) To have seen everything is an exaggeration
  - b) Days of vanity
2. The just
  - a) Expected to live a long life
  - b) He dies unexpectedly before his time
3. The wicked
  - a) The wicked man is not expected to live long
  - b) But instead, he ends up living a long life

**Righteousness and wisdom**

"Do not be overly righteous, nor be overly wise: Why should you destroy yourself?"

Ecc 7:16

1. True righteousness
2. Some appeared to be "righteous"
3. True wisdom
4. Some appeared to be "wise"
5. Facing destruction

**Wickedness and foolishness**

"Do not be overly wicked, nor be foolish: Why should you die before your time?" Ecc 7:17

1. Understanding wickedness

2. Understanding foolishness

3. Early death

### **Fear the Lord**

"It is good that you grasp this, and also not remove your hand from the other; for he who fears God will escape them all." Eccl 7:18

1. Grasping concepts

a) Provided that the concepts are true and correct in the first place

b) Discernment needed

2. Fear God

a) Of paramount importance

b) Previous references to fearing God

i) Eccl 3:14

"I know that whatever God does, it shall be forever. Nothing can be added to it, And nothing taken from it. God does it, that men should fear before Him."

ii) Eccl 5:7

"For in the multitude of dreams and many words there is also vanity. But fear God."

### **Lessons learned**

1. Expect the unexpected things of life

a) A righteous man may not live long

b) A wicked man may live long

2. The challenge is to pursue true righteousness and true wisdom

3. Avoid wickedness and foolishness

4. The challenge to fear God.