



**Lesson Seven: The Wisdom to Know What's Better**  
**Ecclesiastes 7:1-6, 14**  
**Robby Higginbottom | October 22, 2024**

**Ecclesiastes 7:1-6, 14**

**7:1** A good name is better than precious ointment,  
and the day of death than the day of birth.

**2** It is better to go to the house of mourning  
than to go to the house of feasting,  
for this is the end of all mankind,  
and the living will lay it to heart.

**3** Sorrow is better than laughter,  
for by sadness of face the heart is made glad.

**4** The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning,  
but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.

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

**6** For as the crackling of thorns under a pot,  
so is the laughter of the fools; this also is vanity.

**14** In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider: God has made the one as well as the other, so that man may not find out anything that will be after him.

## Discussion Questions:

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1. Confronted with the reality of death, we can either (a) try to escape or (b) seek wisdom. Where do we try to escape? How can we seek wisdom?
2. Give some examples of “résumé virtues” and “eulogy virtues”. Are we spending more energy pursuing résumé virtues or eulogy virtues? Why is “a good name better than precious ointment” (Eccl 7:1)?
3. How do we relate to funerals and memorial services? Why is it “better to go to the house of mourning” than “the house of feasting” (7:2)?
4. How healthy is the laughter in our lives? Why is sorrow “better than laughter” (7:3, 5-6)?
5. What specific things distract us from a deeper life in the Lord?
6. How does the New Testament enrich our perspective on adversity and death?
7. Spend some time praying about what we’re learning. Reflect on the verses below as you pray.

**“O Lord, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days;  
let me know how fleeting I am!**

**David in Psalm 37:4**

**So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.**

**Moses in Psalm 90:12**

**“But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”**

**Jesus in Luke 12:20 (from The Parable of the Rich Fool)**



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