

## 9. Wisdom Proverbs

In the first 6 chapters of the book we see the fruit of Solomon's rebellion. By chapter six he has exhausted his search, sees that his results are empty, and comments on this discovery using several parables.

### ECCLESIASTES 7:1-29

Solomon writes statements of wisdom with a vertical view, above the sun, that reflects a divine perspective.

Intro - Chapter 6 ends Solomon's search for happiness away from God.

Chapter 7 begins his return to God.

Chapter 6 Solomon has exhausted his search for meaning under the sun.  
Chapter 7 Solomon begins writing about true wisdom.

Styles of writing Parallelism is used to accentuate or highlight an idea or word using repetition, contrast and comparison. This device is used to emphasize ideas not words.

Contrasting - Proverbs 13:1 Shows difference

Completive - Proverbs 14:10 Stacks information to complete

Comparative - Proverbs 25:24 Compares

As we go through these Wisdom Proverbs in chapter 7, remember they are in respect to a view of life above the sun, inclusive of God.

## I. 7 Wisdom Proverbs

1. The value of a good name - vs. 1 **comparative**  
Compares a good name to good ointment. For Christians we become the fragrance of Christ. (2 Cor 2:14-16)
2. Death is better than birth - vs. 1b **comparative**  
The end of something is better than the beginning. Paul said I have fought the good fight, I have kept the faith. (1 Tim 6:12; 2 Tim 4:7)
3. Funerals are better than weddings - vs. 2a **2a comparative; 2b completing**  
More is learned at funerals than at weddings. Testing produces growth better than celebration. Sober reality profits the soul.
4. Sorrow is better than laughter - vs. 3-4 **contrasting**  
Sobermindedness in the trials of life more profitable, than life's merry-making. Solomon is encouraging benefit from the experience of sorrow, not to live in it.
5. Better receive rebuke than listen to - vs. 5-7 **foolishness completeive**  
Verse 5 states a premise, Verse 6 completes the picture, Verse 7 rounds out the idea. Wisdom will always win out over foolery, especially above the sun.
6. To end is better than to begin - vs. 8 **comparative**  
It is easier to start than it is to finish. The excitement of starting gives way to the joy of completing.
7. A patient spirit is better than a - vs. 8b-10 **proud spirit comparative & completeive**  
God desires to develop our character from birth to death. This includes replacing pride with patience. Pride pushes patience aside. Patience develops character. We are taught through patience to live in the present, not the past, or the future.

In the last 4 verses, Solomon explains the advantages of wisdom:

A. Wisdom guards against pitfalls vs. 11-12

The wise person makes less mistakes and learns how to preserve his life

B. Wisdom gives a divine perspective vs. 13-14

Wisdom helps one to consider the work of God. We cannot change what God has done nor can we know what he will not reveal.

Two lessons for today 1. Seek God when making decisions in life  
2. Ask God to reveal to us what we do not understand

## II. Wisdom at Work - vs. 15-29

A. Wisdom provides balance vs. 15-18

- Not to be so pious we cannot face reality (ie. too heavenly bound to be any earthly good)
- Not to be so wicked that your life/soul is in danger.

B. Wisdom provides strength vs. 19-22

1. Strength to handle sin
2. Strength to avoid entrapment
3. Strength to deal with criticism

C. Wisdom provides insight vs. 23-28

1. Understanding only comes from God
2. Sexual adventure is not satisfying
3. The problem is within not without

Solomon's wisdom leads him to understand that evil does not come from God. Man's problems are of his own making. Wisdom helps us to know where to lay the blame for the problems of life.