



**A Better Life**  
**Ecclesiastes 7:1-10**



# Observations

There is a single word that the writer uses at least seven times in these verses

## *Better*

The writer believes that life “under the sun” is not perfect, but that there are still some things in this life that are better than others.

If we want to live the kind of life that God wants us to, a life that is a blessing to us, we need to incorporate the *Better* things into our lives



## ***“A Good Name Is Better Than Fine Perfume”***

- Precious perfumes may have a long-lasting scent, but a good name has more of a permanent or lasting value
- Honor and virtue are more desirable than temporary pleasures (perfume)
- The pleasures of sin are temporary, Hebrew 11:24-25
- The point is that nothing on earth is permanent, but some things are just ***“Better”*** than others

Develop a legacy (something good, long lasting) for your offspring rather than live ***“impulsively” with its subsequent regrets*** (***If your child is named Jr. , the father needs to live right***)



# Verses 1-4

## *Funerals Are Better Than Frivolity*

- Funerals are not for the dead, but for the living
- We have the opportunity to gain more real wisdom from the death of a loved one than we do the birth of a child, verse 1
- Funerals and mourning give us an opportunity to reflect on our own mortality and what that should mean for the way we live our lives, Luke 13:1-5
- David said in Psalms 90:12 *“Teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom.”*



# Verses 5-7

## *Friction Is Better Than Flattery*

- The rebuke of a brother or sister who has our best interest at heart can have lasting value, depending on how we take it
- The example the writer uses is: reveling in a fool's compliments (yes men and women) is like trying to heat a pot with some small sticks: the sticks may crack and pop, but there is no real substance to heat the pot



# The Proverbs Are Filled With Verses Valuing Well-Placed Rebuke

*“Do not rebuke a mocker or he will hate you;  
rebuke a wise man and he will love you.”*

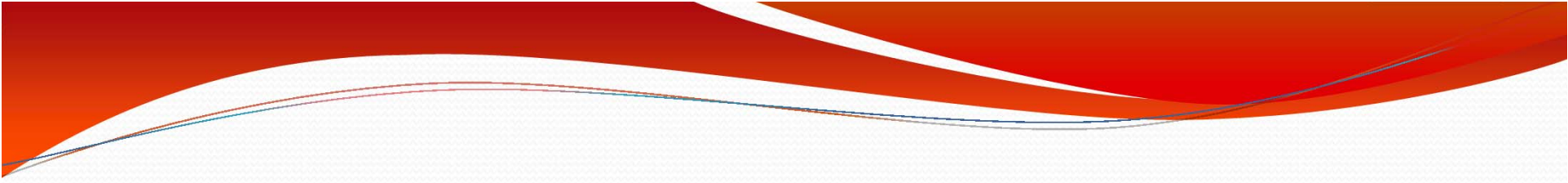
*Proverbs 9:8*

*“He who listens to life giving rebuke  
will be at home among the wise.”*

*Proverbs 15:31*

*“Like an earring of gold or an ornament of fine gold  
is the rebuke of a wise judge to a listening ear.”*

*Proverbs 25:12*

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- It is obviously more pleasant to hear flattering words than to hear words of rebuke, just like it's more pleasant to engage in fun things over funerals; but God is more interested in our character than our comfort

***“No discipline seems pleasant at the time but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.” Hebrews 12:11***

- Both death and rebuke (constructive criticism) can be used to develop our character
- Weigh the rebuke for content not just intent, which God will judge



## Verses 8-10

### *Forbearance is Better Than Fantasy*

- The writer commends the virtue of patience in life because the end of something is better than the beginning (the rewards of delayed gratification)
- Remember, life is a journey not a destination
- Too many of us long for “the good old days,” but the writer plainly says that it is not good to dwell in the past





# Observations

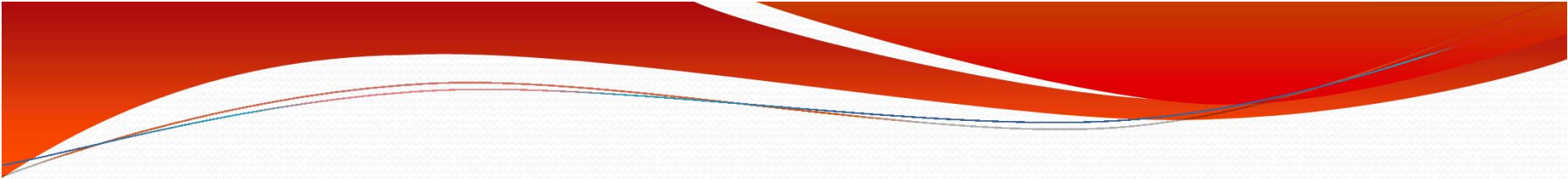
- No matter how much we fantasize about “the good old days,” WE CAN’T BRING THEM BACK!
- We rather need to focus on the here and now, and not quickly be “*provoked in your spirit*”(verse 10) or don’t be so quick to “*fly of the handle!*” *because of the stress of the here and now*
- Deal with the reality of today with patience, perseverance and forbearance, Ephesians 4:1-3; Romans 5:3-5



# Observations

- Rather than try to change the circumstances we are in, we need to try to live wisely in the midst of those circumstances
- Remember Paul's encouragement from his "jail letter," Philippians 4:11-13

*"I am not saying this because I'm in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need and I know what it is to have plenty...."*



*“... I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well-fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”*



# Observations

Paul learned that the key to contentment was not fantasizing about the past or trying to change his circumstances, but to live patiently in the present and dependent upon God who provided Him everything he needed to do that.



# The Plan of Salvation

Hear the Gospel                      Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel                  Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins                        Acts 17:30

Confess Christ                        Acts 8:37

Be Baptized                            Acts 8:38