

Session 11: Aug. 15, 2021 Ecc. 7: 11-22 Where Is the Balance?

(6) Yes, though he live a thousand years twice *told*, yet he has seen no good: do not all go to one place?

(7) All the labor of man *is* for his mouth, and yet the appetite is not filled.

(8) Because what does the wise man have more than the fool? what does the poor have, who knows to walk before the living?

(9) Better *is* the sight of the eyes than the wandering of the desire: this *is* also vanity and turmoil of spirit.

(10) That which has been is named already, and it is known that it *is* man: neither may he contend with one who is mightier than he.

(11) Since there are many things that increase vanity, what *is* man the better?

(12) Because who knows what *is* good for man in *this* life, all the days of his vain life which he spends as a shadow? because who can tell a man what will be after him under the sun?

Chapter 7

(1) A good name *is* better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth.

(2) *It is* better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting: because that *is* the end of all men; and the living will lay *it* to his heart.

(3) Sorrow *is* better than laughter: because by the sadness of the countenance {facial expression} the heart is made better.

(4) The heart of the wise *is* in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools *is* in the house of pleasure.

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

(6) Because as the crackling of thorns under a pot, so *is* the laughter of the fool: this also *is* vanity.

(7) Surely oppression makes a wise man mad; and a bribe destroys the heart.

(8) Better *is* the end of a thing than its beginning: *and* the patient in spirit *is* better than the proud in spirit.

(9) Do not be quick in your spirit to be angry: because anger rests in the bosom of fools.

(10) Do not say, *Why is it* that the former days were better than these? because you do not inquire wisely concerning this.

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(11) Wisdom *is* good with an inheritance: and *by it there is* profit to those who see the sun.

(12) Because wisdom *is* a defense, *and* money *is* a defense: but the excellency of knowledge *is, that* wisdom gives life to those who have it.

(13) Consider the work of God: because who can make *that* straight, which He has made crooked?

(14) In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: God also has set the one opposite the other, to the end that man should find nothing after him.

(15) All *things* I have seen in the days of my vanity: there is a just *man* who perishes in his righteousness, and there is a wicked *man* who prolongs *his life* in his wickedness.

(16) Do not be overly righteous; neither make yourself overly wise: why should you destroy yourself?

(17) Do not be overly wicked, neither be foolish: why should you die before your time?

(18) *It is* good that you should take hold of this; yes, also from this do not withdraw your hand: because he who fears {reverences} God will come forth from them all.

(19) Wisdom strengthens the wise more than ten mighty *men* which are in the city.

(20) Because *there is* not a just man upon earth, who does good, and does not sin.

(21) Also take no heed to all words that are spoken; lest you hear your servant curse you:

(22) Because also your own heart knows that often times you yourself likewise have cursed others.

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(23) All this I have proved by wisdom: I said, I will be wise; but it

was far from me.

(24) That which is far off, and exceedingly deep, who can find it out?

(25) I applied my heart to know, and to search, and to seek out wisdom, and the reason *of things*, and to know the wickedness of folly, even of foolishness *and* madness:

(26) And I find the woman, whose heart *is* snares and nets, more bitter than death *and* her hands *as* bands: whoever pleases God will escape from her; but the sinner will be taken by her.

(27) Indeed, this I have found, says the preacher, *counting* one by one, to find out the account:

(28) Which my soul seeks yet, but I do not find it: one man among a thousand I have found; but a woman among all those I have not found.

(29) Look, this only I have found, that God has made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.

Chapter 8

(1) Who *is* as the wise *man*? and who knows the interpretation of a thing? a man's wisdom causes his face to shine, and the boldness of his face shall be changed.

(2) I *counsel you* to keep the king's commandment, and *that* in regard to the oath of God.

(3) Do not be quick to go out of his sight: do not stand in an evil thing; because he does whatever pleases him.

(4) Where the word of a king *is*, *there is* power: and who may say to him, What are you doing?

(5) Whoever keeps the commandment shall feel no evil thing: and a wise man's heart discerns both time and judgment.