

**Ecclesiastes 7:1-5 READ:**

Solomon cites several things that are BETTER here in the first (5) verses of chapter 7. Last week, “A good name is BETTER than precious ointment; and the day of death (better) than the day of one’s birth. Here in (V2):

“It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart”

The house of mourning here I believe to be a funeral home or the place where the body of one whom has died has been prepared to be laid in the grave? In Ecclesiastes 3:2, we read,

“There is a time to be born, and a time to die”

At the birth of a child there is rejoicing; we can’t wait to see and hold that brand-new life! But when one of our family members or friends dies, we mourn and are sad, which is quite normal.

Everyone loves to go to the gathering of family at a birth, (the place of new life); but when we go to the place of death, there is a mourning, grief, and sadness as we look into the casket upon one whom we knew and loved; and we see their body from which their soul has departed lying still, lifeless, and in death; and we know that they shall never return to this life.

There is a silent lesson / and a silent preacher who is there (in the casket); death is there to teach those of us who are still alive; who are present to mourn the loss of the one whom has died to consider the end of our lives – TO LAY IT TO HEART and to consider our end!

Romans 5:12, 6:23, James 1:15

Death forces those who never think about life, death, eternity, and the judgment to come TO THINK about these realities; even if it’s just for a few moments. Death preaches to all WHO are in the house of mourning; he says, I will come for you when God commands me to do so. Luke 12:19-10

EVERY one of us has an appointed death day in which we will die; when God will recall our souls; when He will take back the life which was given to each of us in our conception! O that we might be ready for that day and hour! James 4:14

Ecclesiastes 12:7: “Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it”

**(V3): AND SO: “Sorrow is better than laughter: for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better”**

Note that Solomon doesn’t say by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made happy; but BETTER (spiritually)! A spiritually BETTER heart is one that has been made sensible of sin and wickedness; when we see (ourselves) in the sight of a Holy God, with repentance in view.

When we are BETTERED by sorrow; Lord willing, by GODLY SORROW which will bring forth real repentance; THEN there will be a real joy and happiness in the soul which transcends every temporary earthly happiness that we could ever have in this life and this world!

The problem in the hearts of so many sinners in the world is, everyone just wants to be happy, but rarely (if ever) do the living “deliberately mourn” in godly sorrow, and in conviction over their sins against a Holy God; nor do they see any profit in godly sorrow or mourning of any kind! But genuine godly sorrow for sin is what is needed if you would see your real self in the sight of God; whom you need to see!

It is written of the prodigal, (Luke 15:17) that “he came to himself”.

This young man saw the depths of his wickedness against both God and his father; this was a good mourning and a godly sorrow that brought forth repentance for his sins! He laid it to heart! 2 Corinthians 7:9-11

Here Solomon is teaching us about the serviceableness of death in the house of

mourning and sorrow, which are profitable to the heart! In fact, the Lord Jesus said:

Matthew 5:4: "Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted"

Luke 6:25: "Woe unto you that laugh now! For ye shall mourn and weep"

**(V4): "The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning; (I think Solomon is teaching us here that the wise are made wiser, and are silently instructed in the house of mourning, and their hearts are made better and more ready for their own death); but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth, (the fool repels sorrow and the house of mourning for the place of feasting and partying; and for gatherings which purposely aid him in casting off the sobering thoughts of life, death, the cross of Christ, eternity, and the judgment to come)"**

Luke 6:21: "Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh"

For the Christian, today's mourning for our own sins will bring comfort that we have been forgiven for all of our sins in Christ. And our weeping shall be turned into laughter when we lift up our eyes in that eternal day!

Revelation 21:4

The wise are made wiser in the consideration of every death; every visitation to the house of sorrow and mourning.

Sorrow, mourning, death; these emotions, this end of our earthly lives ought to often be considered by us.

Death is the beginning of eternal life and eternal joy for those who have turned from their sins to Christ; and death is the beginning of eternal damnation in hell for those who WOULD NOT consider death, while they still had the opportunity to do so; while they still had space to repent, but they refuse to believe on Christ for the forgiveness of their sins.