

SERIES: Ecclesiastes
“The Way of Wisdom”
Ecclesiastes 7:1-14

Honor is better than Luxury (7:1)

- Inner **character** is more important than outward fragrance.

Death is better than Birth (7:1)

- Death is an **evangelist**. It can help bring us to faith.
- Death is an enemy, but can also be our **friend**.

Mourning is better than Feasting (7:2)

- Lessons learned at the house of mourning:
 - Death is coming for **all** of us.
 - Funerals are a time to take stock of our own lives.
 - The surprising impact of a quiet life lived well for God's glory.
 - This life is the **dot**, not the line.
 - Jesus is a great Redeemer.

Sorrow is better than Laughter (7:3-4)

- It is better to **cry** with the saints than to **laugh** with the sinners.
- Our disappointments are often God's appointments.
- A serious life is not a **gloomy** life.

Rebuke is better than Praise (7:5-6)

- Listening to correction shows wisdom.
- The laughter of fools is like the crackling of burning thorns.
 - They laugh loudly.
 - They laugh quickly.
 - They laugh **briefly**.

Patience is better than Pride (7:7-8)

- Wise people are patient because they can see the **big** picture.

Peace is better than Anger (7:9)

Looking Forward is better than Looking Back (7:10)

- We are not to dwell on the **past**.
- We must not ignore the **present**.
- We keep working for the **future**.

Wisdom is better than Wealth (7:11-12)

God's Providence is better than our Plans (v. 13-14)

- Days of prosperity will come.
 - Be **thankful** for the good days.
- Days of adversity will come.
 - Be **thoughtful** on the bad days.
- All our days are appointed by God.

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