



THE SEARCH FOR MEANING

A JOURNEY THROUGH LIFE'S QUESTIONS

A STUDY ON THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES



- ¹ A good reputation is more valuable than costly perfume.
And the day you die is better than the day you are born.
- ² Better to spend your time at funerals than at parties. After all, everyone dies—so the living should take this to heart.
- ³ Sorrow is better than laughter, for sadness has a refining influence on us.
- ⁴ A wise person thinks a lot about death, while a fool thinks only about having a good time.



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The lessons that grow my **soul** rarely come wrapped in **joy**.
True wisdom often hides behind the **uncomfortable**, **difficult**,
or even **sad**.

Ecc. 7:1-14 NLT



- ⁵ Better to be criticized by a wise person than to be praised by a fool.
- ⁶ A fool's laughter is quickly gone, like thorns crackling in a fire. This also is meaningless.
- ⁷ Extortion turns wise people into fools, and bribes corrupt the heart.



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Correction will **grow** us, while inflated **praise** and **ego** turn us into **fools**.



⁸ Finishing is better than starting. Patience is better than pride.

⁹ Control your temper, for anger labels you a fool.

¹⁰ Don't long for "the good old days." This is not wise.

¹¹ Wisdom is even better when you have money. Both are a benefit as you go through life.

¹² Wisdom and money can get you almost anything, but only wisdom can save your life.

¹³ Accept the way God does things, for who can straighten what he has made crooked? ¹⁴ Enjoy prosperity while you can, but when hard times strike, realize that both come from God.

Remember that nothing is certain in this life.





Wisdom doesn't eliminate mystery or answer every question, but it does direct us along the path of deeper meaning by learning to trust God through it.