

# Ecclesiastes 10

Solomon returns to the contrast between wisdom and foolishness. Forms of the word "fool" are used 9x in this chapter. The word "fool" is the strongest condemning word used in the Bible: Ps 14:1/Lk 12:20

Dead flies make a perfumer's oil stink, so a little foolishness is weightier than wisdom and honor. <sup>2</sup> A wise man's heart *directs him* toward the right, but the foolish man's heart *directs him* toward the left. <sup>3</sup> Even when the fool walks along the road, his sense is lacking and he demonstrates to everyone *that* he is a fool. <sup>4</sup> If the ruler's temper rises against you, do not abandon your position, because composure allays great offenses.

<sup>5</sup> There is an evil I have seen under the sun, like an error which goes forth from the ruler—  
<sup>6</sup> folly is set in many exalted places while rich men sit in humble places. <sup>7</sup> I have seen slaves *riding* on horses and princes walking like slaves on the land.

<sup>8</sup> He who digs a pit may fall into it, and a serpent may bite him who breaks through a wall. <sup>9</sup> He who quarries stones may be hurt by them, and he who splits logs may be endangered by them. <sup>10</sup> If the axe is dull and he does not sharpen *its* edge, then he must exert more strength. Wisdom has the advantage of giving success. <sup>11</sup> If the serpent bites before being charmed, there is no profit for the charmer. <sup>12</sup> Words from the mouth of a wise man are gracious, while the lips of a fool consume him; <sup>13</sup> the beginning of his talking is folly and the end of it is wicked madness. <sup>14</sup> Yet the fool multiplies words. No man knows what will happen, and who can tell him what will come after him? <sup>15</sup> The toil of a fool *so* wearies him that he does not *even* know how to go to a city. <sup>16</sup> Woe to you, O land, whose king is a lad and whose princes feast in the morning.

<sup>17</sup> Blessed are you, O land, whose king is of nobility and whose princes eat at the appropriate time—for strength and not for drunkenness. <sup>18</sup> Through indolence the rafters sag, and through slackness the house leaks. <sup>19</sup> *Men* prepare a meal for enjoyment, and wine makes life merry, and money is the answer to everything. <sup>20</sup> Furthermore, in your bedchamber do not curse a king, and in your sleeping rooms do not curse a rich man, for a bird of the heavens will carry the sound and the winged creature will make the matter known.

1. The H\_\_\_\_\_ of a fool (1-4)
2. D\_\_\_\_\_ of a fool (5-6)
3. W\_\_\_\_\_ of a fool (12-14)
4. T\_\_\_\_\_ of a fool (15)

Wisdom has the advantage of giving success (10)

Foolishness r\_\_\_\_\_ what is good (1)  
Foolishness makes a terrible g\_\_\_\_\_ (2-3)  
Foolishness attains u\_\_\_\_\_ honor (6-7)

Servants walking and princes riding (7)

We are the children of God—we are walking when:  
- we want what the \_\_\_\_\_ have  
- we are governed by \_\_\_\_\_ not heart  
- we fail to recognize our place is in the \_\_\_\_\_

B. General warnings about danger: notice the word "may" (8-12)

1. Fool can't \_\_\_\_\_ his tongue (12)
2. Words of a fool are \_\_\_\_\_ (13-14)
3. Foolish \_\_\_\_\_ is wearisome (15-16)
4. Work of a fool is \_\_\_\_\_ (18)

Quandary of the dull axe (10) - what to do?

- What spiritual application can be found here?

C. Warning about being careful what you say (20)  
*A little bird told me...*

Questions

1. Is there any hope for a fool?
2. How does a person become a fool?
3. What is meant by the contrast in 16-17?



# Ecclesiastes 11

This is the shortest chapter in Ecclesiastes. It appears that Solomon is addressing the idea of keeping safe and trying to avoid risk is not the best path in life.

Cast your bread on the surface of the waters, for you will find it after many days. <sup>2</sup> Divide your portion to seven, or even to eight, for you do not know what misfortune may occur on the earth. <sup>3</sup> If the clouds are full, they pour out rain upon the earth; and whether a tree falls toward the south or toward the north, wherever the tree falls, there it lies. <sup>4</sup> He who watches the wind will not sow and he who looks at the clouds will not reap. <sup>5</sup> Just as you do not know the path of the wind and how bones *are formed* in the womb of the pregnant woman, so you do not know the activity of God who makes all things.

<sup>6</sup> Sow your seed in the morning and do not be idle in the evening, for you do not know whether morning or evening sowing will succeed, or whether both of them alike will be good.

<sup>7</sup> The light is pleasant, and *it is* good for the eyes to see the sun. <sup>8</sup> Indeed, if a man should live many years, let him rejoice in them all, and let him remember the days of darkness, for they will be many. Everything that is to come *will be* futility.

<sup>9</sup> Rejoice, young man, during your childhood, and let your heart be pleasant during the days of young manhood. And follow the impulses of your heart and the desires of your eyes. Yet know that God will bring you to judgment for all these things. <sup>10</sup> So, remove grief and anger from your heart and put away pain from your body, because childhood and the prime of life are fleeting.

Opens with the merchant and transitions to the farmer

You cannot \_\_\_\_\_ the future (3)

You cannot \_\_\_\_\_ how things will turn out (6)

You cannot make things \_\_\_\_\_ forever (7-8)

- section is reminder of 9:10-11
- You do not know (2, 5, 6)

Best advice is to:

Sow (6)

Rejoice (8)

Remember (8)

Advice to the young (9-10)

- r \_\_\_\_\_ (9)

- r \_\_\_\_\_ (10)

G \_\_\_\_\_, a \_\_\_\_\_, p \_\_\_\_\_  
- remember (12:1)

Wisdom isn't reserved just for older people

In the Bible, who was young and wise?

