



Daily Verse and Comment

Ecclesiastes 7:5-14

- (5) *It is* better to hear the rebuke of the wise
Than for a man to hear the song of fools.
- (6) For like the crackling of thorns under a pot,
So is the laughter of the fool.
This also is vanity.
- (7) Surely oppression destroys a wise *man's* reason,
And a bribe debases the heart.
- (8) The end of a thing *is* better than its beginning;
The patient in spirit *is* better than the proud in spirit.
- (9) Do not hasten in your spirit to be angry,
For anger rests in the bosom of fools.
- (10) Do not say,
"Why were the former days better than these?"
For you do not inquire wisely concerning this.
- (11) Wisdom *is* good with an inheritance,
And profitable to those who see the sun.
- (12) For wisdom *is* a defense *as* money *is* a defense,
But the excellence of knowledge *is that* wisdom gives life to those who have it.
- (13) Consider the work of God;
For who can make straight what He has made crooked?
- (14) In the day of prosperity be joyful,
But in the day of adversity consider:
Surely God has appointed the one as well as the other,
So that man can find out nothing *that will come* after him.

New King James Version

Solomon's fifth piece of [wisdom](#) in this chapter is that we must not let pride get the better of us by allowing ourselves to reject correction from a person we know has experience in a difficulty we are going through ([Ecclesiastes 7:](#)

[5-6](#)). If we fail to humble ourselves in such a case, we will likely later regret passing off the correction as nothing more than arrogant interference. That can be a major misjudgment, as [Proverbs 11:2](#) bluntly reminds us, “When pride comes, then comes shame; but with the humble is wisdom.”

A sixth piece of Solomonic sagacity appears in [Ecclesiastes 7:8](#), where he reminds us not to let impatience defeat us. When a trial is resolved, we will be glad we stuck with it. Impatience is a restlessness of mind that can easily become anxiety-ridden. It rises when we want to put an irksome and perhaps dangerous task behind us. [Peace](#) departs and the quality of our involvement in the situation dwindles. We so easily become frustrated and angry when things seem stacked against us. Some trials must be endured for long periods, often the case in relationship problems. Thus, [Proverbs 11:12](#) cautions, “He who is devoid of wisdom despises his neighbor, but a man of understanding holds his peace.”

A seventh nugget of sound advice: Do not look back, bemoaning one's commitment to God's way of life ([Ecclesiastes 7:9-10](#)). Solomon directly states that is not wisdom. Wisdom is to keep plowing forward as one's best defense. [Jesus](#) says in [Luke 9:62](#), “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.” He adds in [Mark 4:17](#) that some called ones have no root in themselves and so endure only for a while, and when tribulation and persecution arise they stumble. We must continue forward, though it is difficult at times, because it will pay off handsomely in the end.

A final item of wisdom appears in [Ecclesiastes 7:13-14](#): We should never allow ourselves to lose sight of [God](#). Paul promises in [I Corinthians 10:13](#), “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.” God—the same God who gives us days of prosperity—remains with us during adversity. In adversity, even though it appears dark and perhaps never-ending, He calls on us to use our [faith](#).

— John W. Ritenbaugh

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