

Life on a Crooked Road

Ecclesiastes 7:13-20

**Key Point: “The Fear of God is the
beginning of Wisdom”**

Introduction

Review of Ecclesiastes 7:1-12

- **Main Point: Because of the fall, life is hard and confusing. Trust God over circumstances and appearances.**
- **“Death is good”**
 - **The heart of a wise person takes death seriously.**
- **Surround yourself with wise people.**

Introduction

Review of Ecclesiastes 7:1-12

- **While the future is uncertain, we should:**
 - **Wait patiently on God, because trials bring about His purposes in our lives.**
 - **While difficult times will come, God's best for every believer is yet to come.**
 - **Therefore: Humbly submit yourself to the Lord's Providences.**

Ecclesiastes 7:13-20

[13] Consider the work of God:

who can make straight what he has made crooked?

[14] In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider: God has made the one as well as the other, so that man may not find out anything that will be after him.

[15] In my vain life I have seen everything. There is a righteous man who perishes in his righteousness, and there is a wicked man who prolongs his life in his evildoing. [16] Be not overly righteous, and do not make yourself too wise. Why should you destroy yourself? [17] Be not overly wicked, neither be a fool. Why should you die before your time?



Ecclesiastes 7:13-20

[18] It is good that you should take hold of this, and from that withhold not your hand, for the one who fears God shall come out from both of them.

[19] Wisdom gives strength to the wise man more than ten rulers who are in a city.

[20] Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins.

Road Map

- **Life as a crooked road**
- **Lessons learned from a crooked road trip**

Life as a crooked road

Ecc 1:15 *What is crooked cannot be made straight, and what is lacking cannot be counted.*

God is an active integral part of life:

- **Ex 32:9 *“I have seen this people, and behold it is a stiff necked people.”***
- **Isa 38:5 *Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, “I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears:”***
- **Jer 23:13 *And I have seen folly in the prophets of Samaria; they prophesied in Baal, and caused my people Israel to err.***

Life as a crooked road

God Himself, ordained that our road would be crooked.

- **Crooked does not mean evil, or less than God's best.**
 - **Deut 8:5**
 - **Heb 12:6**

Ecc 1:15 *“What is crooked cannot be made straight.”*

- **The context is from a worldly perspective, or “under the sun”**

Life as a crooked road

Ecc 7:13 “Consider the work of God, who can make straight what he has made crooked?”

James 1:2-4 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Lessons learned from a crooked road trip

3 things the crooked road accomplishes in our lives:

1. Adversity produces steadfastness.

➤ **Romans 5:3-4** *“but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,”*

2. To bring us to repentance

➤ **2 Cor 7:10** *“For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.”*

Lessons learned from a crooked road trip

3 things the crooked road accomplishes in our lives:

3. To show us His sovereignty

- **Psa 118:24 “This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”**

The truth about a “Good Day”

- **Ecc 7:14 “In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider: God has made the one as well as the other”**

Lessons learned from a crooked road trip

The truth about a “Good Day”

- *“Trusting in the sovereign goodness of God helps us know how to respond to all the joys and trials of life. Whether we are having a good day or a bad day, there is always a way for us to glorify God.”*

(Ecclesiastes, Philip Graham Ryken)

- Rom 8:28 *“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”*

Lessons learned from a crooked road trip

“When adversity comes, recognize that this too is a day that the Lord has made.”

(Ecclesiastes, Philip Graham Ryken)

- **Job 2:10 “Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?”**
- **James 5:10-11 “As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast.”**

Lessons learned from a crooked road trip

“The fluctuating seasons of life keep us dependent on God. We are not in heaven yet.”

(New Bible commentary)

“Let us, therefore, be content with the things that are present and commit ourselves into the hand of God, who alone knows and controls both the past and the future.”

(Martin Luther)

Gen 50:20 “As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.”



Tying it Together

“It is one thing to say that we believe in the sovereignty of God, but another thing to live that out in a world that often seems meaningless.”

(Ecclesiastes Philip Graham Ryken)

Ecc 7:17-18 *Be not overly wicked, neither be a fool. Why should you die before your time? It is good that you should take hold of this, and from that withhold not your hand, for the one who fears God shall come out from both of them.*

Tying it Together

Solomon points us back to “The Fear of God”

➤ John 6:68

➤ Prov 9:10 *“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.”*

ESV defines “The Fear of God” as reverent obedience.

