

Wisdom for Life (Ecclesiastes 7 - 8)

Introduction

- What do we often feel we deserve these days?
- What is the shock statement The Teacher has for us?
- What are these two chapters like?
- Give three examples of The Teacher's wisdom in these chapters.
 - i)
 - ii)
 - iii)

i "Someone has to die in order that the rest of us should value life more"
(Virginia Woolf) – 7:1-4

- Why is the house of mourning better than the house of feasting?
- What does death make us do?
- What can we see when we death jolts us?
- What can be true about those who have looked death in the face?
- Which Psalm teaches the same lesson?
- What else does death do to us?
- What else is true about death for the Christian?

- Do you ever ponder death (without being really morbid!)?
- What do you need to do if you are not ready for death?

ii “There are good days and there are bad days, and this is one of them”
(Lawrence Welk) – 7:13-14

- What does v13 talk about?
- What should be our attitude to the good days?
- What is true of the bad days?
- How wide is the scope of God’s control according to Ephesians 1:11?
- What does this mean about our destiny?
- What should our attitude to God be, then?
- How can we do that when it’s hard?

iii “I know nothing, except the fact of my ignorance” Diogenes the Cynic –
8:12-17

- Which of life’s puzzles does The Teacher address here?
- What is his conclusion in v17?
- What should our attitude to God be given that this is the case?
- What, then, does The Teacher call us to do?
- Why is that so hard?