

A Carefully Considered Life

Ecclesiastes 7

Theme: A carefully considered, God-fearing life can prevent the bitterness that results from seeking meaning and satisfaction in this world.

Introduction:

- Chapter 7 is a transition from Solomon's _____ in chapters 1 – 6, to his _____ in chapters 8 – 12.

I. Six Hallmarks of a Carefully Considered Life (v. 1 – 14)

- A. _____ is better than Quantity (v. 1)
- B. Considering the _____ improves the journey (v. 2-4)
- C. _____ is better than mere enjoyment (v. 5-7)
- D. _____ in the Present is better than focusing on the future or past (v. 8-10)
- E. Wisdom is better _____ in life than money (v. 11-12)
- F. God's _____ is better than our plans (v. 13-14)

Application:

- Are we being intentional in the way we structure our THOUGHTS and ATTITUDES?
- What steps can you take this week to work on one of these areas?

II. Solomon's Report on his Experiment to find Meaning (v. 15 - 29)

A. The _____ Statement (v. 15-22)

1. Solomon's Summary

2. Problem: no matter how we live our lives, it does not determine
the _____

3. Wisdom is what we need, and it will show us we are

B. The _____ (v. 23-25)

C. The Results: a _____ of Bitterness (v. 26)

D. The Reasoning: an abandoned _____ (v. 27-29)

Application: A desperate cry for _____ !!

- Solomon understands there must be an answer, but he doesn't see it: he is "still seeking"
- His experiment was 100% correct, as far as it went. He knew ONE MAN, Adam, had it all, but he (and all mankind) sought his own inventions instead of God and wound up in prison. Solomon couldn't yet fully understand how ONE MAN would come to set us free.
- JESUS CHRIST is the answer to Solomon's experiment to find Meaning, and his cry for Grace!