

Potosi Baptist Church
Wednesday Bible Study
Ecclesiastes Lesson 7

1. What is better than precious ointment? 7:1; a good name is better than precious ointment. Solomon also shares this in Proverbs 22:1 when he says a good name is better than riches. The point is a good “reputation” is more “valuable” than wealth and riches.
2. Which is better the day of one’s birth or death? For those who have put their faith in God and received “His Gift” of everlasting life as John 3:16 promises death is not “The End.” Read also II Corinthians 5:1-8 and Revelation 21:4.
3. In verses two - four Solomon is saying that _____ can be a good thing. In the end of verse 2 Solomon says “And the living will take it to heart.” How do you take it to heart? Solomon says that sorrow is better than laughter and that it is better to go to a funeral than a party. One way to take sorrow to heart is when it is seen in “repentance.” See also II Corinthians 7:10
4. What does Solomon compare to the “crackling of thorns?” 7:6; the laughter of the fool is like crackling of thorns. This is part of his continued teaching from verse 5. It is not always best to surround yourself with “yes people” who will tell you what you want to hear. These people, their words and the joy they may bring may have a lot of “pop” but they will have a “short lifespan.”
5. What verse in the New Testament is the equivalent of Ecclesiastes 7:9? James 1:19; “So then my beloved brethren let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath (anger).” This is great wisdom, and for some easier said than done.
6. Read 7:10 and then finish this statement: A wise man knows that God is _____. A wise man knows that God is wiser! When you think the former days were better, you are thinking you are wiser than God.
7. Why has God appointed both the day of prosperity and adversity? 7:13-14; “so man can find out nothing that will come after him” means that man must put his trust in God. Rejoice in prosperity and trust in God through adversity, knowing He has the power to make the crooked straight.

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Wednesday Bible Study
Ecclesiastes Lesson 6

1. What does Solomon say is a common evil affliction among men? 6:1-2; a man may have riches, wealth and honor but does not have the ability to enjoy it.
2. What is prosperity? In 5:19 and 6:2, Solomon says “every man to whom God has given....” They each have, but only one has power to enjoy and that is the person with the “gift of God.” I would say the person with prosperity is the person with the gift!
3. Solomon asks “Do not all go to one place?” What is the place he is speaking of? 6:6; this is not heaven and he is not saying that all go to heaven. He is talking about death. There is something more to live for than this life. This life has no purpose without God. Our purpose, happiness and joy are in God and life eternal with Him.
4. What will not be satisfied by all your labor? 6:7; your soul
5. What is the “wandering of desire” and what is better? 6:9; the wandering of desire is the need to find satisfaction in what we do not have. It is the person who says, when I get, then I will be happy. Better, Solomon says, is the person who is able to see the good in what he has and have happiness in the present.
6. What will man never be able to have? 6:10-11; more power than God.
7. Who knows the future? 6:12; only God

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Ecclesiastes Lesson Five

1. What is proper conduct when seeking to worship God? 5:1-7; a) walk prudently (wisely, carefully, cautiously); b) enter to listen; c) watch your mouth; d) do not give the sacrifice of fools; e) keep your vows
2. When making vows, what principles should be kept? 5:4-7; a) do not delay in keeping it; b) do not make it if you are not going to keep it; c) don't make excuses for not keeping it
3. Why should you not marvel at oppression and the perversion of justice? 5:8-9; because there is always a "higher authority;" even kings have a higher authority.
4. What are two negatives to abundance? 5:10,12; one, they are never satisfied with abundance, and two, their abundance will not allow them to sleep
5. What does Solomon see as a "severe evil" under the sun and why? 5:13-17; the severe evil is putting all your trust in riches because they can perish, and then what do you have? Nothing. When they are gone you have nothing to leave to your children, you die as you were born, with nothing, and you become full of sickness, sorrow and anger.
6. How should riches and wealth be viewed? 5:19; as a gift of God. Wealth is not an evil; putting our trust in wealth and not in God is the evil.
7. How will you know that you have the proper attitude about riches and realize that they are a "gift of God"? 5:20; you will not dwell unduly on the days of your life, and you will be kept busy by God with the joys of your heart. Clarke's commentary says that we are passing through the temporal with our eyes on the eternal. When our eyes are on the riches life is meaningless, but when our eyes are on God life today has real joy and meaning!

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Ecclesiastes Lesson Four

1. What did Solomon observe about the oppression under the sun? 4:1-3;
a) the oppressed have no comforter b) power is on the side of the oppressor c) better to never have been born than experience oppression
2. What did Solomon observe about the very skillful work of man? 4:4;
that it was envied by others
3. What was Solomon's conclusion about the work of a very skillful man? 4:6; that it was better to not produce so much and live in "quietness" without the envy of others.
4. What question will the person who has no companion in life never ask? 4:8; "For whom do I toil and deprive myself of good?" Solomon saw that it was vanity (useless) to be alone in this world.
5. Why are two better than one? 4:9-12; a) rewards b) help c) warmth and d) strength.
6. What did Solomon observe about popularity? 4:13-16; a) that he would rather have the popularity of a poor but wise child than that of an old foolish king b) and the position and power of being king did not equal lasting popularity.

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Ecclesiastes Lesson Three

1. Is there anything that Solomon says does not have a time or purpose? 3:1-8; No, everything has a time or purpose

2. What has God put in man's heart? 3:11 —eternity!

3. Instead of trying to figure out why God acts as He does, what should man do? 3:11-13; Eat, drink and enjoy the good of labor, which is a gift of God!

4. Why are God's ways unchangeable? 3:14 —so man will fear God.

5. What does God require of man? 3:15 —an account of his past.

6. What was Solomon's conclusion about life's injustices? 3:16-17; God will Judge.

7. Why does God test people? 3:18-21 to show man that we are like animals and/or should be different from animals. We have a soul and God did not create us to live and return to dust.

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Wednesday Bible Study
Ecclesiastes Lesson Two

1. What did Solomon conclude after seeking and gaining wisdom and knowledge? 1:16-18— that even though he had attained greatness and gained more wisdom than any other king, wisdom and knowledge were empty.

2. What did Solomon conclude from being able to have anything “his eye desired”? 2:1-11 —all is vanity, empty

3. Which excels the other, folly or wisdom? 2:13; Wisdom excels folly. It is better to be wise than foolish.

4. How does a wise man die? 2:12-16; They die like the fool and are remembered no more.

5. Why did Solomon hate his labor? 2:18-20; Because you have to leave it to others. You cannot take it with you.

6. Why did it trouble Solomon that he would have to leave his labor to someone else? 2:21; Because that person may be a fool

7. Solomon said a person should eat, drink and enjoy the good in his labor. What was his conclusion about how a person could enjoy the good in his labor? 2:24 True enjoyment is a gift from God!

Potosi Baptist Church
Wednesday Bible Study
Ecclesiastes Lesson One

1. What is the book of Ecclesiastes titled in the Hebrew? Qoheleth which is pronounced Koheleth and means preacher.
2. Ecclesiastes comes from which Greek word? Ekklesia which means “called out ones” or “assembly.”
3. What is a key word (repeated many times) in this book? Vanity is a key word mentioned 35 times. It means “futility, useless and empty.”
4. What is a key phrase (repeated many times) in this book? “Under the sun” is a phrase that is mentioned 29 times in the book. This phrase shows that the preacher “Solomon” wants people to know that life is empty and vain when it is only looked at from an earthly perspective.
5. What is the key question the book of Ecclesiastes seeks to answer? 1:3 “What profit has a man from all his labor?”
6. How do we know that the author of Ecclesiastes is Solomon? In verse one he says that “The words of the preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.” Solomon was the only son of David to be king.
7. What are the first three reasons given to support the words of verse 2 “all is vanity”? a) Nothing seems to change, verses 4-7. B) Nothing seems to satisfy, verse 8. C) Nothing is new under the sun, verse 9-11.

Extra Question for fun: Why do people think something is new? Because they forget the past; verse 11 says there is no remembrance of the former things.

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Wednesday Bible Study
Proverbs lesson #12

1. Agur did not want to be poor and he did not want to be rich; why and what did he want? 30:7-9; He did not want to be rich because if he had too much then he would say, “Who is the Lord?” and not trust in Him, and if he was poor he would steal and disobey Him. He wanted “what was allotted him” and to be in right fellowship with God.
2. Agur speaks of a generation that breaks several of God’s commandments; for example they break number five by not honoring their father and mother. What other commandments did they not keep? 30:11-14; it could be said that this kind of generation listed is breaking them all, but specifically they may not all be listed. A) In verse 11, they are not honoring mother and father, and this is commandment #5. B) In verse 12, they are so full of pride that they are breaking 1, 2, 3, & 4, or all 4 of them. C) In verse 13, they are lustful and this is breaking #10. D) In verse 14, they are destructive in their actions to others and this is breaking #9.
3. Agur gives four examples of things that are never satisfied; what are the four and what is the fifth which is implied? 30:15-16; A) the grave, B) the barren womb, C) the earth’s need for water, D) the fire’s need for fuel. In talking about things never satisfied, he is also talking about a generation of people without God, who are also never satisfied.
4. When should a person put his hand over his mouth? 30:32-33; when he has been devising evil or exalting himself.
5. Who should be given strong drink or wine? 31:6-7 says to give strong drink to a person dying and wine to a person “bitter of heart.” Many think the bitter of heart is speaking of a person in depression.
6. What is the worth of a virtuous wife? 31:10; “far above rubies.” There is no amount that can be placed on such a wife. Why do men seek for those of less value, and why do some women not desire to be of more value?
7. Charm and beauty cannot replace what? 31:30; the praise received by one who fears the Lord. Beauty fades, charm is deceitful, but the praise of the Lord to those who fear Him is everlasting.

Potosi Baptist Church
Wednesday Bible Study
Proverbs lesson #11

1. When Solomon wrote Proverb 27:22 he may have what words of the prophet Jeremiah in mind? Jeremiah 5:3
2. If you were to preach a sermon from 27:23-28, what would you title it? The real question is what is the theme of these verses? To me, it is about taking care of your own. The thought and title that comes to my mind is “Mind your own business.”
3. “Why will God not answer my prayer?” has been a question around forever. Solomon learned from his father David (Psalm 66:18) and is now passing that knowledge to his son; what was their response to this question? Proverbs 28:9, this same thought is taught in other scriptures such as Isaiah 15:1-9,58:3-7; Jeremiah 11:11,14:2; Zechariah 7:13 and John 9:31. We should always remember God is Holy and without sin; when we have no regard for “His Law” and have willful sin with pleasure in our hearts, we are not showing reverence to God who is without sin and Holy.
4. How is Solomon teaching one to have mercy? Proverbs 28:13; “but whoever confesses and forsakes sin” will have mercy. Is sin something you try to hide or is it something you seek God’s forgiveness for?
5. What is a ruler without understanding? An oppressor. Proverbs 28:16; most people probably first think of someone in a high office like president when they think about this verse, but it can be applied to places of authority such as in business, in churches and let’s not also forget our homes.
6. What does Solomon say a fool does with his feelings? Proverbs 29:11 “A fool vents all his feelings.” The NAS says “the fool loses his temper.” The KJV “A fool uttereth all his mind.” In context of what Solomon has been teaching, this verse can be understood with losing tempers and about anger, which is not a good thing. If we stop and think about it, there may also be other emotions that should not at times be shared either. For example, it would not be good to show joy at a time when someone is in pain.
7. Read Proverbs 29:21 in as many translations as you can, then answer this question: is pampering a slave to the point that he becomes like a son a good thing or a bad thing? Even different translators cannot agree on this one. I can see both sides, you do not want a slave to act as a son and think he can sit at the table and not serve the family which is his job, but if you see it from a relational point, which we have teaching of in the New Testament, this could be a good thing.

Potosi Baptist Church
Wednesday Bible Study
Lesson #10 Proverbs

1. What does Solomon compare taking a dog by the ears to? 26:17 “He who passes by and meddles in a quarrel not his own is like one who takes a dog by the ears.” When does someone else’s quarrel become yours? It doesn’t.
2. How does Solomon say you can stop strife? 26:20-22 “Where there is no wood the fire goes out and where there is no talebearer strife ceases.” Sometimes the best answer is “No Answer.” Getting in the last word is not the way to end strife.
3. What is a person with “kind words” and a “lying tongue” compared to? 26:23-28 “fervent lips with a wicked heart are like earthenware covered with silver dross.” This is cheap cookware made to look expensive. These verses are all about how a person may use kind words but have a heart full of evil. We are told in verse 25 not to believe this type of person.
4. Jesus taught a parable about a Rich Fool and it is a good illustration of which Proverb? Luke 12:13-21 the Rich Fool said he had many goods laid up for many years and was going to sit back and eat, drink and be merry, then that night he died. Proverbs 27:1 “Do not boast about tomorrow for you do not know what a day may bring forth.”
5. Neither Paul nor Solomon would recommend doing this and Paul said that a person who did was not wise in II Corinthians 10:12. Which Proverb shows Solomon’s thoughts on the topic and what is it he is telling us not to do? Proverbs 27:2, a person is not to boast about himself.
6. A good illustration of this proverb is something Judas did to help deliver Jesus to the chief priests. What did he do and which proverb does it illustrate? Proverbs 27:6 and Matthew 26:49 Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss. “The kisses of an enemy are deceitful.” People can be deceitful and make you think they are your friends and really be your enemies. You may not like it, but it would be better to be hurt by the truth of a friend than the kiss of an enemy.
7. How is a man valued? Proverbs 27:21 “The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold and a man is valued *by what others say of him.*” Your reputation is your value.

Potosi Baptist Church
Wednesday Bible Study
Lesson #9 Proverbs

1. How often should you visit your neighbor? Proverbs 25:16-17 talks of going so often that you are no longer welcome. It also compares eating so much honey that it is not a good thing. Honey is good but too much is not.
2. What does Solomon compare putting confidence in an unfaithful person to? 25:19 a bad tooth or foot out of joint, neither can be trusted when needed and they will cause you pain.
3. What do “apples of gold in settings of silver” and “vinegar added to soda” have in common? Proverbs 25:11 and 20 in both verses it is talking about the importance of saying the appropriate thing at the appropriate time.
4. Just before Paul says “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good” he quotes a proverb. Which proverb does he quote and where in Paul’s writings can it be found? Proverbs 25:21-22 and Romans 12:20-21 are the verses where this is all found. The point is we are to love even our enemy. Jesus taught this also in Matthew 5:43-48.
5. Are we or are we not to answer a fool? Proverbs 26:4-5 a good example of what may do is given by Jesus in a parable (Matthew 16:1-4). Jesus answered the foolish by explaining the wrong of their foolishness.
6. How is a thorn in the hand of a drunkard like a proverb in the mouth of fools? 26:9 at first it may seem that a drunkard would probably not be in pain from the thorn, but it is likely that a “thorn in the hand” of a drunkard may be more of a danger to others.
7. What kind of person is compared to a “door on hinges”? 26:14 a lazy man is like a door on hinges, he is not going anywhere! All the movement of the lazy man is controlled by the bed as a door’s movement is controlled by the hinges.

Potosi Baptist Church
Wednesday Bible Study
Lesson #8 Proverbs

1. This verse in chapter 21 says that man can rationalize and or justify everything that he or she does. Which verse is it? 21:2
2. When a person follows righteousness and mercy what will he find? 21:21 “He who follows righteousness and mercy finds **life, righteousness** and **honor.**”
3. Benjamin Franklin said “The man who is good at making excuses is seldom good for anything else.” What excuse did Solomon say a lazy man gives for not working? 22:13 “There is a lion in the street!” What excuses have you heard?
4. Do not **remove** the ancient **landmark** which your fathers have **set.** 22:28 What spiritual landmarks are people today changing?
5. Who has woe, sorrow, contentions, complaints, wounds without cause and redness of eyes? 23:29-30 and 23:31-35 one who lingers long at the wine, a drunkard.
6. If you **faint** in the day of **adversity,** your strength is **small.** 24:10
7. This proverb is the opposite of the “Golden Rule”. Which one is it? 24:29 a

Potosi Baptist Church
Wednesday Bible Study
Lesson #7 Proverbs

1. A person who is slothful in his work is related to what kind of person? 18:9 Great danger. How does being slothful in Christian labor effect your brother? We are more willing to not allow slothful behavior outside the church but tend to ignore nonattendance, nonsupport and or indifference.
2. He who **answers** a matter before he **hears** it, it is **folly** and **shame** to him. 18:13
3. He who **keeps** the commandments keeps his **soul**, but he who is **careless** of his **ways** will die. 19:16
4. Giving to those in need is like giving to the **Lord**. 19:17
5. Anyone can start a **quarrel** but **honorable** men stop **striving**. 20:3
6. It is good for nothing **cries** the **buyer**, but when he has gone his way then he **boasts**. 20:14
7. Blows that **hurt** cleanse away **evil**, as do **stripes** the inner depths of the **heart**. 20:30

Potosi Baptist Church
Wednesday Bible Study
Lesson #6 Proverbs

1. Many disappointments in life could be avoided if we would watch what we say. 15:1,7,23,26
2. All the days of the afflicted are evil, but he who is of a merry heart has a continual feast. 15:15
3. What verse has the same meaning as “better to eat peanut butter and crackers with people who love, than to roast, potatoes and gravy with people who hate”? 15:17
4. A man’s heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps. 16:9
5. Long life is a crown of glory when it is lived righteously. 16:31
6. This verse explains that if we do not stop arguments early they may turn from dripping water into a greater problem. 17:14
7. This is even considered a wise thing for a fool to do. 17:28 “hold his peace”

Potosi Baptist Church
Wednesday Bible Study
Lesson #5 Proverbs

1. Anxiety in the **heart** of man causes **depression**, but a good **word** makes it **glad**. 12:25
2. The righteous should **choose** his friends **carefully**, for the way of the **wicked** leads them **astray**. 12:26
3. He who **guards** his mouth preserves his **life** but he who **opens wide** his lips shall have destruction. 13:3
4. A good man leaves an **inheritance** to his **children's** children, but the **wealth** of the sinner is **stored** up for the righteous. 13:22
5. He who **spares** his **rod** hates his son, but he who loves him **disciplines** him **promptly**. 13:24
6. Where no **oxen** are, the trough is **clean**; but much **increase** comes by the **strength** of an ox. 14:4
7. The heart knows its own **bitterness**, and a **stranger** does not **share** it's joy.14:10

Potosi Baptist Church
Wednesday Bible Study
Lesson #4 Proverbs

1. When a wicked man **dies**, his **expectation** will perish, and the **hope** of the unjust perishes. 11:7

2. When it goes well with the righteous the **city rejoices**, and when the **wicked perish**, there is jubilation. 11:10

3. A **talebearer** reveals secrets, but he who is a **faithful** spirit **conceals** a matter. 11:13

4. There is one who **scatters** yet increases more; and there is one who **withholds** more than is right, but leads to **poverty**. 11:24

5. A man will be **commended** according to his **wisdom**, but he who is of a **perverse** heart will be **despised**. 12:8

6. A **righteous** man **regards** the life of his animal, but the tender mercies of the **wicked** are **cruel**. 12:10

7. The way of a **fool** is **right** in his own **eyes**, but he who **heeds** counsel is **wise**. 12:15

Potosi Baptist Church
Wednesday Bible Study
Lesson #3 Proverbs

1. My son, keep my **words** and **treasure** my **commands** within you. Proverbs 7:1, Lev. 18:5
2. What is the “apple of your eye”? Proverbs 7:2, Psalm 17:8 This Hebrew idiom is surprisingly close to the Latin version, papilla, which means a little doll, and is a diminutive form of pupus for boy and pupa for girl. It was applied to the dark central portion of the eye within the iris because of the tiny image of oneself, like a puppet that one can see when looking into another person’s eye.
3. For wisdom is better than **rubies**, and all the **things** one may desire cannot be **compared** with her. Proverbs 8:11
4. He who corrects a **scoffer** gets shame for himself, and he who **rebukes** a wicked man only **harms** himself. Proverbs 9:7
5. He who **gathers** in summer is a **wise** son; he who **sleeps** in harvest is a son who causes **shame**. Proverbs 10:5
6. What stirs up strife? Proverbs 10:12, hatred
7. What is the value of a lazy man to the person employing him compared to? Proverbs 10:26, uselessness

Potosi Baptist Church
Wednesday Bible Study
Lesson #2 Proverbs

1. What verse in the New Testament has the same message as Proverbs 3:27? James 4:17— to know to do good and not do it is sin.
2. Like father like son, the words are not exact but the message is repeated by each. Which Proverb of Solomon is similar to David's Psalm 1:1? Proverbs 4:14-15
3. What does Solomon say the cost of adultery may be in Proverbs chapter 5? It may cost you your wealth 5:10. It may cost you your health 5:11 and it may cost you your reputation 5:14.
4. What should someone do who has given his word as a guarantee for someone he does not know? 6:1-5— you should go and get out of it.
5. What should be learned by the ant's example? 6:6-11— even without a boss they know the importance of not being lazy and working.
6. If Proverbs 6:1-15 were a sermon titled "Regarding Proverbs" point one could be "Regarding Surety" v.1-v.5, point two could be "Regarding Slothfulness" v.6-v.11, what could point three be? Regarding Scoundrels v12-19.
7. Which one of the things God hates possibly causes the most harm in our churches today? Proverbs 6:16-19 (19b) sowing discord (this is just my opinion).

Potosi Baptist Church
Wednesday Bible Study
Lesson 1 on Proverbs

1. A **wise** man will **hear** and increase **learning** and a man of **understanding** will attain wise **counsel**. Proverbs 1:5
2. What proverb did Joseph employ when his master's wife tempted him? Proverbs 1:10, Genesis 39:7-10
3. Solomon was told by God in a dream that he could ask whatever he wanted. What did he ask for and in what proverb does he explain that what he asked for is given by God? I Kings 3:9, Proverbs 2:1-6 (v6) wisdom
4. Trust in the Lord with **all** your **heart**; And He shall **direct** your **paths**; Fear the Lord and **depart** from **evil**. Proverbs 3:5-7
5. **Honor** the Lord with your **possessions**, and with the **first fruits** of all your **increase**. Proverbs 3:9
6. The Lord's **chastisement** is a sign of His **love**. Proverbs 3:11-12
7. In Proverbs 3:18 the "tree of life" we are to take hold of is a reference to what? Proverbs 3:13 and 3:18 both speak about wisdom. We are happy when we "find wisdom" and when we "hold on to it."