

Choosing What Is Better

Introduction: As a believer, we should not just be choosing between what is _____ and bad, but discerning between what is good and _____. Here Solomon exhorts us to choose what is "better" (used here more than anywhere else in this book).

- I. Reputation v. Riches (Eccl. 7:1)
 - A. Having a good name is far better than _____.
 - B. What people _____ about you matters more than what you had.
 - C. Mary is forever remembered for what she did for _____ (Matt. 26:7-13).
- II. Mourning v. Mirth (Eccl. 7:2-6).
 - A. God's Word is not against _____ (Prov. 17:22).
 - B. "Laughter can be like a medicine that heals the broken heart, but sorrow can be like nourishing food that strengthens the _____ person" (Wiersbe).
 - C. Jesus feasted at the wedding in Cana, but He _____ at the grave of Lazarus—a balance is what is needed.
 - D. Sadness has a way of making us _____ (Ps. 119:67, 71, 75; Lev. 16:31; Titus 2:2, 4, 6).
 - E. "Sober reflection should be preferred to levity"—leads to better _____ (Ps. 90:12) (Bible Knowledge Commentary).
- III. Patience v. Pride (Eccl. 7:7-10).
 - A. How you _____ matters more than how you started.
 - B. Patience and pride cannot coexist—they are _____ to each other.
 - C. A proud person wants what they feel they deserve right _____.
 - D. The humble are patient and willing to wait on God's _____.
 - E. _____ can cause impatience and anger—can cause complaining in the name of longing for "the good old days."
 - F. "Better to light a _____ than to curse the darkness" (Phil. 2:15).
 - G. "Patience fits a man for God's _____, whereas pride fits him for destruction (Ro. 5:4; Prov. 16:18) (MacDonald).
- IV. Wisdom v. Wealth (Eccl. 7:11-14).
 - A. Wisdom is better than money because there are problems in life that money cannot _____.
 - B. Money comes and goes, but wisdom will be there to help when _____ need to be made.
- V. Right v. Wrong (Eccl. 7:15-29).
 - A. The godly person avoids _____.
 - B. Having a healthy fear of God and being humble will bring good _____.

Conclusion: "Even in his fallen condition, man still has an intuitive hunger to find perfection. He goes through life looking for the perfect partner, the perfect job, the perfect everything. But he cannot find perfection in others or in himself. [Only] God satisfies man's hunger for perfection with Christ—no one else, no other thing" (MacDonald).