



Ecclesiastes 7:11-20

11 Wisdom is good with an inheritance: and by it there is profit to them that see the sun.

12 For wisdom is a defense, and money is a defense: but the excellency of knowledge is, that wisdom giveth life to them that have it.

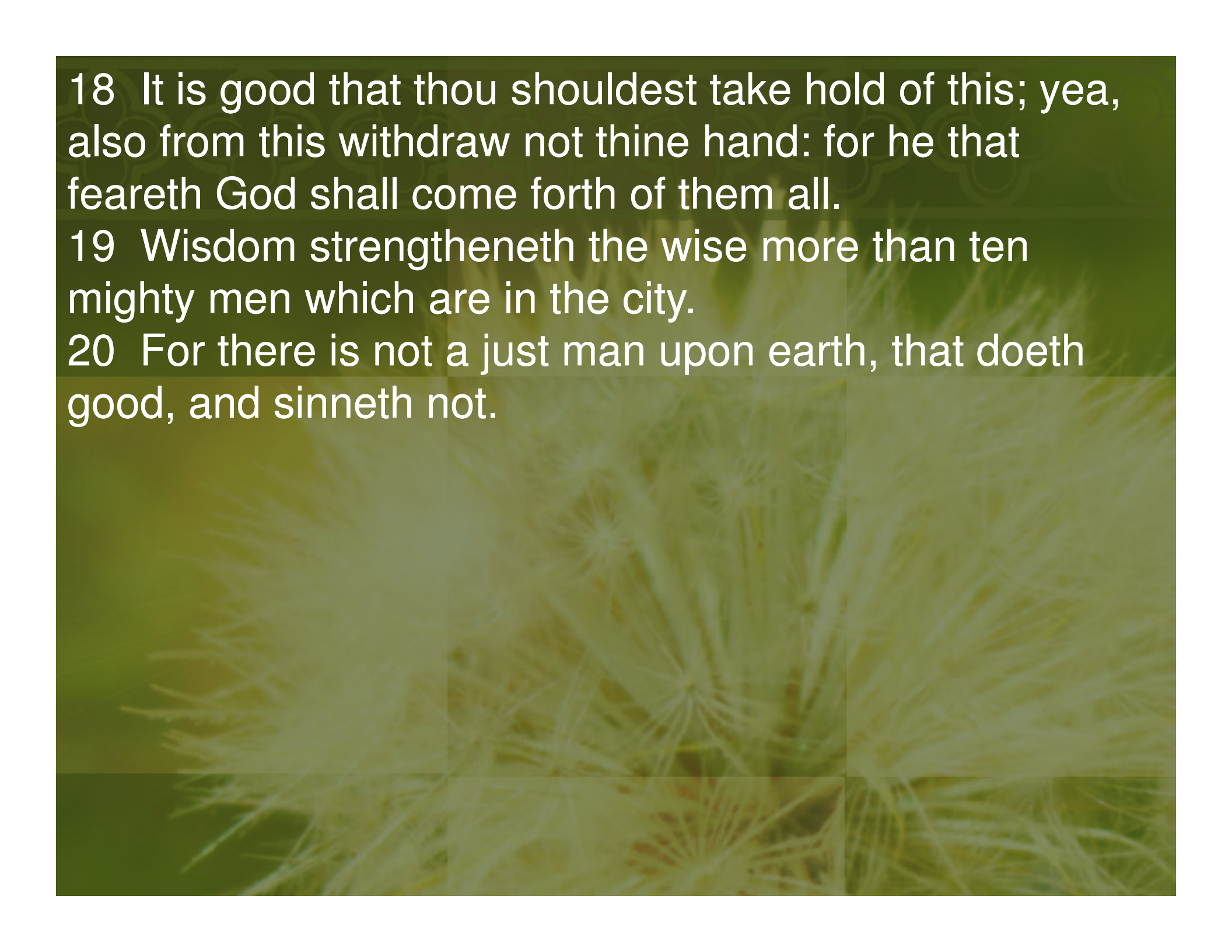
13 Consider the work of God: for who can make that straight, which he hath made crooked?

14 In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: God also hath set the one over against the other, to the end that man should find nothing after him.

15 All things have I seen in the days of my vanity: there is a just man that perisheth in his righteousness, and there is a wicked man that longeth his life in his wickedness.

16 Be not righteous over much; neither make thyself over wise: why shouldest thou destroy thyself?

17 Be not over much wicked, neither be thou foolish: why shouldest thou die before thy time?



18 It is good that thou shouldest take hold of this; yea, also from this withdraw not thine hand: for he that feareth God shall come forth of them all.

19 Wisdom strengtheneth the wise more than ten mighty men which are in the city.

20 For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.

WISELY ACCEPT GOD'S PROVIDENCES – ECCLESIASTES 7:11-20

1. Review: Challenge to Pursue What Is Better, 7:1-10.
 - A. Maintaining a good name, 7:1a
 - B. Building a good conclusion to life, 7:1b.
 - C. Having a good perspective on life and death, 7:2.
 - D. Having a good appreciation of sorrow, 7:3-4.
 - E. Having a good appreciation for rebuke, 7:5-7.
 - F. Maintaining a good spirit of patience and humility,
7:8-9.
 - G. Having a good acceptance of present conditions,
7:10.

2. Suddenly a "Wake Up Call," exalting wisdom, 7:11-12.

A. Wisdom is good with an inheritance, 7:11.

Eccl. 7:11 Wisdom is good with an inheritance: and by it there is profit to them that see the sun.

B. Wisdom is better than an inheritance, 7:12.

Eccl. 7:12 For wisdom is a defense, and money is a defense: but the excellency of knowledge is, that wisdom giveth life to them that have it.

3. There are two wisdoms in the world:

A. The world's wisdom.

B. God's wisdom.

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.
8 My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother:
9 For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.

Proverbs 3:13 Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.
18 She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retaineth her.

4. Just as suddenly Solomon moves on to new wisdom about living a better life.

He gives us more instruction about how to live our lives so that we come to the end of life and it really is true that the day of your death is better than the day of your birth (a life well lived, 7:1).

5. Life in a sin-cursed world has Providences of God that can perplex us, 7:13-20.

CHALLENGE: React wisely to the Providences of God in your life.

A. Reacting wisely to what God has made crooked in your life, 7:13

Eccl. 7:13 Consider the work of God: for who can make that straight, which he hath made crooked?

Eccl. 1:15 That which is crooked cannot be made straight: and that which is wanting cannot be numbered.

Eccl. 3:1 To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

2 A time to be **born**, and a time to **die**; a time to **plant**, and a time to **pluck up** that which is planted;

3 A time to **kill**, and a time to **heal**; a time to **break down**, and a time to **build up**;

4 A time to **weep**, and a time to **laugh**; a time to **mourn**, and a time to **dance**;

5 A time to **cast away stones**, and a time to **gather stones together**; a time to **embrace**, and a time to **refrain** from embracing;

6 A time to **get**, and a time to **lose**; a time to **keep**, and a time to **cast away**;

7 A time to **rend**, and a time to **sew**; a time to **keep silence**, and a time to **speak**;

8 A time to **love**, and a time to **hate**; a time of **war**, and a time of **peace**.

9 What profit hath he that worketh in that wherein he laboureth?

10 I have seen the **travail**, which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised in it.

B. Reacting wisely to both prosperity and adversity in your life., 7:14

Eccl. 7:14 In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: God also hath set the one over against the other, to the end that man should find nothing after him.

C. Reacting wisely to the contradictions in life, 7:15-18

1. Contradiction, 7:15 A just man dies young,
and a wicked man lives to old age.

Eccl. 7:15 All things have I seen in the days of my vanity:
there is a just man that perisheth in his righteousness, and
there is a wicked man that longeth his life in his
wickedness.

Prov. 10:27, The fear of the LORD longeth days: but the
years of the wicked shall be shortened.

Psa. 55:23, (David) But thou, O God, shalt bring them down
into the pit of destruction: bloody and deceitful men shall not
live out half their days; but I will trust in thee.

2. Foolish reactions, 7:16-17

a. Adopt an exalted opinion of yourself, 7:16

Eccl. 7:16 Be not righteous over much; neither make thyself over wise: why shouldest thou destroy thyself?

Rom. 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

b. Abandon righteousness, 7:17

Eccl. 7:17 Be not over much wicked, neither be thou foolish: why shouldest thou die before thy time?

WE SHOULD RECOGNIZE:

1) Generally, the wicked will have a shorter life span, Psa. 55:23.

Psalm 55:23 But thou, O God, shalt bring them down into the pit of destruction: bloody and deceitful men shall not live out half their days; but I will trust in thee.

2) Prosperity is not the ultimate measure of life.

3) No matter how long the wicked live, they will be judged.

Prov. 10:29, The way of the LORD is strength to the upright: but destruction shall be to the workers of iniquity.

3. Wise reaction, 7:18

Eccl. 7:18 18 It is good that thou shouldest take hold of this; yea, also from this withdraw not thine hand: for he that **feareth God** shall come forth of them all.

Prov. 4:26-27, Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. 27 Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: **remove thy foot from evil.**

Eccl. 8:12-13, Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that **it shall be well with them that fear God**, which fear before him:

13 But it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong his days, which are as a shadow; because he feareth not before God.

D. Applying wisdom to overcome sinful inclinations, 7:19-20

1. Wisdom (from God) gives those who will accept it and apply it a tremendous advantage over the wicked, 7:19.

Eccl. 7:19 Wisdom strengtheneth the wise more than ten mighty men which are in the city.

2. We need wisdom because we have been weakened by sin, 7:20.

Eccl 7:20 For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.

CONCLUSION:

1. Life even as a Christian is not always a "bed of roses" in a sin-cursed world.
2. The workings of God bring blessing into our lives and allows things in our lives that humanly we would prefer not to have.

3. CHALLENGE: React wisely to the Providences of God in your life.

Reacting wisely to what God has made crooked in your life.

Reacting wisely to both prosperity and adversity in your life.

Reacting wisely to the contradictions in life.

4. Do not let the perplexities of life in a sin-cursed world threaten your faith and confidence in God. Heed this advice.

5. Do you have faith and confidence in God? Or do you still need to take that initial step of trusting in God for salvation?