



ECCLESIASTES

Eccl. 10:1-7

Eccl. 10:1 Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour: *so doth* a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom *and* honour.

2 A wise man's heart *is* at his right hand; but a fool's heart at his left.

3 Yea also, when he that is a fool walketh by the way, his wisdom faileth *him*, and he saith to every one *that he is* a fool.

4 If the spirit of the ruler rise up against thee, leave not thy place; for yielding pacifieth great offences.

5 There is an evil *which* I have seen **under the sun**, as an error *which* proceedeth from the ruler:

6 Folly is set in great dignity, and the rich sit in low place.

7 I have seen servants upon horses, and princes walking as servants upon the earth.

This evening, we continue on a wonderful, spiritual journey through the Book of Ecclesiastes, known also as “The Preacher.”

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c. The Triumph of Folly. 10:1-7

(1) Over All That Is Reasonable, 10:1-3

(a) The Parable of the Dead Fly, 10:1

Eccl. 10:1 Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour: *so doth* a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom *and* honour.

❖ A fly is a little thing, doesn't seem too significant, and is easy to overlook or take for granted.

Gal. 5:9 **A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.**

❖ A “dead fly,” though seemingly insignificant, can produce a corruption of something designed for good – ointment.

Ex. 30:25 And thou shalt make it an oil of holy ointment, **an ointment compound after the art of the apothecary**: it shall be an holy anointing oil.

Prov. 27:9 **Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart:** so *doth* the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel.

- ❖ “Oil” is a type of the Holy Spirit and “...**an ointment compound after the art of the apothecary**: it shall be an holy anointing oil.” Is an excellent type of the Holy Spirit’s anointing of a believer.
- ❖ The “apothecary” is the source of the ointment. The “dead flies” are the corruption.
- ❖ One’s testimony may originate from an excellent source, but a “little folly” can ruin it for one “...that is in reputation for wisdom *and* honour.”

✦ The Example of David:

2 Sam. 11:3 And David sent and enquired after the woman. And *one* said, *Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?*

1 Kings 15:5 Because David did *that which was* right in the eyes of the LORD, and turned not aside from any *thing* that he commanded him all the days of his life, **save only in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.**

❖ The Example of Josiah:

2 Chron. 35:21 But he sent ambassadors to him, saying, What have I to do with thee, thou king of Judah? *I come not against thee this day, but against the house wherewith I have war: for God commanded me to make haste: **forbear thee from meddling with God**, who is with me, that he destroy thee not.*

22 Nevertheless Josiah would not turn his face from him, but **disguised himself**, that he might fight with him, and **hearkened not unto the words of Necho from the mouth of God**, and came to fight in the valley of Megiddo.

23 And the archers shot at king Josiah; and the king said to his servants, Have me away; **for I am sore wounded.**

❖ The Example of Solomon:

1 Kings 4:29 And **God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much**, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that *is* on the sea shore.

2 Chron. 9:22 And **king Solomon passed all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom.**

23 And all the kings of the earth sought the presence of Solomon, to hear his wisdom, **that God had put in his heart.**

✦ Perhaps, in Solomon's heart, he convinced himself that the many wives were as insignificant as flies.

1 Kings 11:4 For it came to pass, **when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father. ...**

9 **And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel,** which had appeared unto him twice,

Job 32:9 **Great men are not *always* wise:** neither do the aged understand judgment.

(b) The Parade of the Deluded Fool,
10:2-3

i. His Left-Handed Heart, 10:2

Eccl. 10:2 A wise man's heart *is* at his right hand; but **a fool's heart at his left.**

❖ The dual nature of man, pictured here, is a constant battle for domination in making decisions.

Mt. 25:34 Then shall the King say unto them **on his right hand**, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: ...

41 Then shall he say also unto them **on the left hand**, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

ii. His Loud-Voiced Herald, 10:3

Eccl. 10:3 Yea also, when he that is a fool walketh by the way, his wisdom faileth *him*, and **he saith to every one that he is a fool.**

❖ Actions speak louder than words – check the fruit:

Mt. 7:20 Wherefore **by their fruits ye shall know them.**

❖ A fool announces his identity by his actions.

Psa. 14:1 **The fool hath said in his heart, *There is no God.*** They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, *There is none that doeth good.*

Psa. 53:1 **The fool hath said in his heart, *There is no God.*** Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity: *there is none that doeth good.*

Prov. 10:8 The wise in heart will receive commandments: but **a prating fool shall fall.** ...

18 He that hideth hatred *with* lying lips, and **he that uttereth a slander, is a fool.** ...

23 ***It is as sport to a fool to do mischief:*** but a man of understanding hath wisdom.

Prov. 12:15 **The way of a fool is right in his own eyes:** but he that hearkeneth unto counsel *is* wise.

Prov. 14:9 **Fools make a mock at sin:** but among the righteous *there is* favour.

Prov. 14:16 A wise *man* feareth, and departeth from evil: but **the fool rageth, and is confident.**

Prov. 15:5 **A fool despiseth his father's instruction:** but he that regardeth reproof is prudent.

Prov. 17:16 Wherefore *is there* a price in the hand of **a fool to get wisdom, seeing he hath no heart to it?**

Prov. 18:2 **A fool hath no delight in understanding,** but that his heart may discover itself.

Prov. 19:1 Better *is* the poor that walketh in his integrity, than ***he that is perverse in his lips, and is a fool.***

Prov. 20:3 *It is* an honour for a man to cease from strife: but ***every fool will be meddling.***

Prov. 24:7 ***Wisdom is too high for a fool:*** he openeth not his mouth in the gate.

Prov. 26:11 As a dog returneth to his vomit, so ***a fool returneth to his folly.***

Prov. 28:26 ***He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool:*** but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.

Prov. 29:11 **A fool uttereth all his mind:** but a wise *man* keepeth it in till afterwards.

Luke 24:25 Then he said unto them, **O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:**

Conclusion

Rom. 7:15 For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.

16 If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that *it is* good.

17 Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not.

19 For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.

20 Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

21 I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.

22 For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:

23 But I see another law in my members, **warring against the law of my mind**, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

24 O wretched man that I am! **who shall deliver me** from the body of this death?

25 **I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord**. So then with **the mind** I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.