

The background is a light blue-grey color with a complex, low-poly geometric pattern. Overlaid on this is a network of eight colored dots (red, orange, teal, purple, green, blue, purple, and teal) connected by thin, light grey dashed lines. The dots are arranged in a roughly circular pattern around the center, with lines connecting them in a star-like or web-like fashion.

ECCLESIASTES

Ecccl. 10:12-15

Eccl. 10:12 The words of a wise man's mouth *are* gracious; but the lips of a fool will swallow up himself.

13 The beginning of the words of his mouth *is* foolishness: and the end of his talk *is* mischievous madness.

14 A fool also is full of words: a man cannot tell what shall be; and what shall be after him, who can tell him?

15 The labour of the foolish wearieth every one of them, because he knoweth not how to go to the city.

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

I. THE PREACHER’S SUBJECT, 1:1-11

A. The Preacher, 1:1

B. The Problem, 1:2-3

C. The Process, 1:4-11

II. THE PREACHER’S SERMON, 1:12-10:20

A. Things He Had Sought, 1:12—2:26

B. Things He Had Seen, 3:1—6:12

C. Things He Had Studied, 7:1-10:20

1. Life's Frustrations, 7:1-29
2. Life's Fallacies, 8:1-17
3. Life's Finalities, 9:1-10
4. Life's Falseness, 9:11-10:15
 - a. The Triumph of Fate, 9:11-12
 - b. The Triumph of Forgetfulness, 9:13-18
 - c. The Triumph of Folly. 10:1-7
 - d. The Triumph of Futility, 10:8-15
 - (1) Over the Lawless Man, 10:8-9
 - (a) Preparing Evil, 10:8
 - i. Digging: A Great Fall Awaits, 10:8a
 - ii. Destroying: A Great Foe Awaits, 10:8b

(b) Prosecuting Evil, 10:9

i. Deception Practiced: Hurt Lurks
Unseen, 10:9a

ii. Destruction Practiced: Harm
Lurks Unseen, 10:9b

(2) Over the Laboring Man, 10:10

(a) Why He Works So Hard, 10:10a

(b) Why He Wants to Heed, 10:10b

(3) Over the Loquacious Man, 10:11

(4) Over the Learned Man, 10:12-15

(a) His Words Described, 10:12a “The words of a wise man's mouth *are* gracious...”

- The contrast between a “wise man’s mouth” and “the lips of a fool” comprise verse 12.
- How the words are perceived by the hearer is dependent upon the speaker:

Prov. 10:19 **In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin:** but **he that refraineth his lips is wise.**

20 The tongue of the just *is as* choice silver: the heart of the wicked *is* little worth.

21 The lips of the righteous feed many: but fools die for want of wisdom.

Prov. 17:27 **He that hath knowledge spareth his words:** *and* a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit.

28 **Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise:** *and* he that shutteth his lips *is esteemed* a man of understanding.

- A “wise man” has learned to use words in a gracious manner.

Prov. 15:1 A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.

2 **The tongue of the wise** useth knowledge aright: but **the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness.**

(b) His Words Disregarded, 10:12b-15

i. The Words of a Fool, 10:12b-14

- They Are Self-Destructive, 10:12b-13
 - Who They Devour, 10:12b “...but the lips of a fool will swallow up himself.”

- The fool is self-destructive, unable to control his mouth.

Prov. 17:20 He that hath a froward heart findeth no good: and **he that hath a perverse tongue falleth into mischief.**

Prov. 21:23 Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue **keepeth his soul from troubles.**

Jas. 1:26 If any man among you seem to be religious, and **bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.**

Jas. 3:5 Even so **the tongue is a little member**, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!

6 And **the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity**: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. ...

8 But **the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison**.

9 Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.

10 **Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.**

Luke 6:45 A good man out of the good **treasure of his heart** bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil **treasure of his heart** bringeth forth that which is evil: **for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.**

- How They Develop, 10:13

Eccl. 10:13 The beginning of the words of his mouth *is* foolishness: and the end of his talk *is* mischievous madness.

- The fool begins with foolish words and ends with “mischievous madness” = “I have a right over my body” → thousands of innocent babies are murdered every week.
- They Are Self-Deceptive, 10:14
 - The Fool’s Talkativeness, 10:14a “A fool also is full of words: a man cannot tell what shall be...”
- Perfect example = campaign advertisements.

Eccl. 5:3 “...and a fool's voice *is known* by multitude of words.”

Prov. 10:19 In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips *is* wise.

- When politicians make promises for the future, consider the source – “...a man cannot tell what shall be...”
- The Fool’s Thickheadedness, 10:14b “...and what shall be after him, who can tell him?”
- You cannot have an intelligent conversation with someone who “knows everything” – “...who can tell him?”

**PEOPLE WHO THINK
THEY KNOW EVERYTHING
*ARE ANNOYING TO THOSE OF US
WHO ACTUALLY DO***

<https://www.computergear.com/annoyingtshirt.html>

✦ Pray for wisdom while conversing with a fool.

Prov. 26:4 Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him.

5 Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit.

ii. The Works of a Fool, 10:15

- The Weariness of His Works, 10:15a “The labour of the foolish wearieeth every one of them...”
- This is the opposite of “work smarter, not harder.”
- “Obsess and do less.”
- “Foolish toil, futile turmoil.”

Prov. 12:24 The hand of **the diligent** shall bear rule:
but **the slothful** shall be under tribute.

Prov. 15:19 **The way of the slothful *man*** is as an hedge of thorns: but **the way of the righteous** is made plain.

Prov. 18:9 He also that is **slothful in his work** is brother to him that is a great waster.

Prov. 19:24 **A slothful *man*** hideth his hand in *his* bosom, and will not so much as bring it to his mouth again.

Prov. 21:25 The **desire of the slothful** killeth him; for his hands refuse to labour.

Prov. 22:13 The **slothful *man*** saith, *There is a lion without, I shall be slain in the streets.*

- The Waywardness of His Works, 10:15b
“...because he knoweth not how to go to the city.”
- This is equal to the saying, “He doesn’t have enough sense to come out of the rain.”

Conclusion

Fools have a heart/mouth problem.

The point is that the fool is a jerk.

The working of the Holy Spirit, via the Word of God, plus personal discipline will transform a believer into a “wise man.”

1 Pet. 3:8 Finally, ***be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:***

9 Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.

10 For he that will love life, and see good days, ***let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:***

11 Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it.

12 For ***the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers:*** but the face of the Lord *is* against them that do evil.