2Thess #182

Divine Wisdom has the advantage of bringing success.

Open up today in the OT – Ecclesiastes chapter ten RF.

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1000 John E. Peterson Blvd (FM 78)

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(San Antonio airport – S.A.T.) \

I am going to approach this message today from a different angle.

This chapter of Ecclesiastes has wonderful life lessons for Christians who want to rise above the lies and misery of the devil’s world.

It is a great complimentary lesson to tie into the study of 2Thess 3. Where we see the Bels at Thessalonica falling for the false teaching and becoming inactive and disruptive in the plan of GOD.

Both King Solomon and his father David wrote with great eloquence, very poetic. They wrote psalms, songs and proverbs.

This particular chapter points out the pit falls of a foolish lifestyle.

As I went through it I decided to dive deeper into the principles behind some of the poetic and clever phrases.

So, this is broken down in a commentary as to how it connects to our lesson related to the apathetic Believer who has fallen for the lies of Satan’s system.

As we open in in Ecc 10 – let us remember King Solomon inherited a peaceful and prosperous nation.

King Solomon is viewed as one of the wisest men in the bible and yet we see he found boredom and apathy at some point in his blessed life.

Solomon was the one who brought a crack in the foundation of Israel which later would divide it into separate tribes.

He allowed his personal desire for the ladies to weaken him. He permitted false idols and foreign gods to be worshipped by his many wives and concubines.

Every man or woman in the Bible who disrespected the divine institution of marriage – one man and one woman, have brought misery and pain unto their lives.

In many cases the ripple effects spread out among other generations.

Solomon embarked on what my pastor taught on - called the eight experiments of men. (book)

It was a view of testing all the wealth and fun, the pleasure and hard work in the world to see what it leads to.

He finally exhausted himself and came to the conclusion;

/Ecc 12:7 then **the dust will return to the earth** as it was, and **the spirit will return to God** who gave it. 8 “Vanity of vanities,” says the Preacher, “**all is vanity!”**

King Solomon concluded, without a relationship with GOD all the power, pleasure and wealth of the world is in vain. \

There is no picture, more sad then that of a man or woman who has wasted decades on pursing pleasure or wealth in the world and they still have a bitter soul and a misery deep within.

The party lifestyle burns you out and the pursuit of greater power or wealth hardens the heart.

Now chapter ten picks up in conjunction with the lesson taught in chapter nine, where he was emphasizing that divine wisdom is the key to success in life.

Now he begins to warn about foolishness;

/Ecc 10:1 Dead flies turn a perfumer’s oil rancid, *so* a little foolishness is more potent than wisdom *and* honor.

The infection of foolishness into truth destroys it. Just as a person of integrity can go astray for a short period and bring much damage into their life.\

It is very sad… but true – that one night of bad decisions can change the course of your life for years.

One day of foolish behavior can tarnish a good reputation.

One false set of teachings can lead a Bel astray.

/The perfumer’s oil in the ancient world held great value, there was an art to getting it just right. One insect found in that oil would turn a buyer away. As a growing Christian, realize your life has meaning for others beyond your own desires and needs. Be careful with your choices and actions, the ripple effects often touch many around us. Just as the truth of BD can be skewed when it is mishandled and it will touch other Bels.\

[Ecc 10:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/ecc/10/2/s_669002) A wise person’s heart *directs him* toward the right, but the foolish person’s heart *directs him* toward the left.

Remember the seat of authority is on the right side of the throne. The side of honor or Royality was always on the right hand in the ancient world.

Many cultures considered the right side as a place of strength and respect.

Notice the HEART - *lēḇ, (LAY-VE)*, references the deep seat of knowledge in the soul.

/Prov 4:23 Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it *flow* the springs of life.

You are the leader of your soul structure; you are the contractor of what is being built in your life.\

It is our thought patterns that we must indoctrinate into truth.

[Ecc 10:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/ecc/10/3/s_669003) Even when the fool walks along the road, his sense is lacking, and he demonstrates to everyone *that* he is a fool.

/[Ecc 10:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/ecc/10/4/s_669004) If the ruler’s temper rises against you, **do not abandon your place**, because **composure puts great offenses  to rest.**

Verse 3 feeds into verse 4, the fool wanders around off course. Stand firm in your position or your calling, even under difficult challenges. Walk in an orderly fashion, balanced and composed.\

There is always going to be a challenge, a difficulty - or an unjust circumstance in this temporal life.

At times we see many and other times we have a reprieve and great blessings, also times of tranquility and joy.

REPEAT

[Ecc 10:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/ecc/10/5/s_669005)There is an evil I have seen under the sun, like a mistake that proceeds from the ruler:

[Ecc 10:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/ecc/10/6/s_669006) foolishness is set in many exalted places while the rich sit in humble places.

[/Ecc 10:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/ecc/10/7/s_669007) I have seen slaves *riding* on horses and **princes walking like slaves on the land.**

Every Bel is a Royal Family member and in truth – positional truth, we are often the prince or princess among slaves in this temporal life.\

Some slaves of Satan’s system hold temporary power over us, or it seems that way in this grand illusion of the angelic conflict.

In the end many of them will sit by side by side with Satan in everlasting agony.

REPEAT

/These 3 verses paint a true picture of the devil’s world – in that many good or wise men and women, hard-workers with integrity, do not always get the promotion. There is very little justice and real balance in the cosmic system. Many in positions of great authority are influenced by evil and some are simply foolish pawns. The SM Bel understands the ways of this world and never becomes discouraged by the devil’s world. We have our sights set on eternity – position, not condition.\

[Ecc 10:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/ecc/10/8/s_669008) One who digs a pit may fall into it, and a serpent may bite one who breaks through a wall.

[Ecc 10:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/ecc/10/9/s_669009) One who quarries stones may be hurt by them, and one who splits logs may be endangered by them.

/Solomon listed several examples of those who did wrong or foolish things and then suffered because of it. No one truly gets away with anything. The fool is occupied with competition and jealousy, they destroy themselves in the process of attacking others. Those who waste time and effort in competition of others in the devil’s world, often bring weariness and a great loss of time and energy in the end.\

Bel or Unbel are days are all numbered by the Divine Decree of God.

How often do we see a person who completely dedicated themselves to a career or the pursuit of wealth or fame, have sorrowful regret at the end of their life?

**/**[Ecc 10:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/ecc/10/10/s_669010) **If the axe is dull** and he does not sharpen *its* edge, then he must exert *more* strength. **Wisdom *has* the advantage of bringing success**.

Human viewpoint is dull and it takes human effort and human endurance to try an achieve the fleeting promises of the devil’s world. \

Divine wisdom from BD digested with faith and understanding brings true success – not from human works.

BD applied with prayer brings success.

[Ecc 10:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/ecc/10/11/s_669011) If the serpent bites before being charmed, there is no benefit for the charmer.

/The sum of these four clauses in verses 8-9, is not merely a tale of warning, that he who undertakes a dangerous matter exposes himself to danger. These proverbs point out the distinction between wisdom and foolishness, that the wise man is conscious of his danger, and guards against it. The wise Bel has an alert and balanced life, purposeful and vibrant.\

SM Bel are very difficult to trap in cosmic system nonsense.

They are not easily tricked or fooled.

You rarely find a SM Bel consistently in a rut and besieged by one problem after another…unless they are in the middle of a set of divine tests for super-grace maturity.

[Ecc 10:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/ecc/10/12/s_669012) Words from the mouth of a wise person are gracious, while the lips of a fool consume him;

/[Ecc 10:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/ecc/10/13/s_669013) the beginning of his talking is foolishness, and **the end of it is evil insanity.**

The danger for anyone (Bel or Unbel) who allows the devil’s world to influence them is a gateway into evil.\

What may seem like foolishness and harmless nonsense may someday turn out to be a wicked trap, a lifestyle of evil.

The first time a 14 year old boy puffs on a cigarette to look cool with his buddies, he has no intention of having lung cancer 25 years later, after a pack a day habit caught up with him.

The first time any teenager goes to a party and tries the drugs and alcohol being passed around, they have no idea ten years later they would be a slave to this substance.

REPEAT

[Ecc 10:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/ecc/10/14/s_669014) Yet the fool multiplies words. No person knows what will happen, and who can tell him what will come after him?

/Jam 4:13 Come now, you who say, “**Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city**, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit.” 14 **Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow**. For **you are *just* a vapor** that appears for a little while, and then vanishes away.\

God gave you time, talent and treasure Royal Family, do not take it for granted.

/[Ecc 10:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/ecc/10/15/s_669015) **The labor of a fool** (*kᵊsîl*)**makes him *so* weary**that he does not even know how to go to a city.

The arrogance of foolishness causes them to spin their wheels in the devil’s world, to the point of having nothing left in the end. Not even able to grasp the truth and what direction to go in. A life with no direction or real purpose.\

KISS-EEL, means to be confused from their own arrogance.

It means you eventually get tired and lost, you become foolish from pride.

[Ecc 10:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/ecc/10/16/s_669016) Woe to you, land whose king is a boy, and whose princes feast in the morning.

[Ecc 10:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/ecc/10/17/s_669017) Blessed are you, land whose king is of nobility, and whose princes eat at the appropriate time—for strength and not for drunkenness.

/Even though Solomon was a young man when he took the throne – he sought out wisdom and relied upon the teaching of BD he received from his father. Those with an immature nature (age or attitude) can bring misery to others if they are promoted to quickly. The feast in the morning was a sign of self- indulgence or a party. Immature people are very selfish, petty and others suffer under them when they are in leadership.\

[Ecc 10:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/ecc/10/18/s_669018) Through extreme laziness the rafters sag, and through idleness the house leaks.

/The breakdown of a spiritual life begins at apathy toward Bible Doctrine. This will lead to a lazy lifestyle, which is seen in the symptoms of procrastination and avoiding responsibility. The house will breakdown and the roof will sag and so does the walls of your soul. Getting your life organized and balanced is your first and most important step toward real accountability. True accountability means you do not avoid the man or woman in the mirror! \

Today… not tomorrow, becomes the time you realize you need to get your life on track.

/[Ecc 10:19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/ecc/10/19/s_669019) *People* **prepare a meal** for enjoyment, **wine makes life joyful**, and **money is the answer to everything**.

Once a Believer gains momentum in the plan of GOD they can have the capacity for blessings and enjoy life. Solomon is pointing out that the foolish live for all of these things – the mature Christian knows the joy and answers in life come from GOD.\

There is nothing wrong with having a great meal…a glass of wine and enjoying a party.

Money is great tool… it is a wonderful slave that we need to thrive in the temporal life. Yet money is a wicked master when it controls you!

/[Ecc 10:20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/ecc/10/20/s_669020) Furthermore, in your bedroom **do not curse a king**, and in your sleeping rooms **do not curse a rich person**; for a bird of the sky will bring the sound, and the winged one will make *your* word known.

Do not become angry and jealous of those in authority or those with financial blessings. A bitter and petty spirit will engulf a person and they will become petty and bitter in their lifestyle.\

When you feel jealous or angry toward a person with wealth…good looks or a position of power, whatever it is… the problem is not with them, it is with you.

Why you have an attitude of conflict with someone above you or wealthier than you is often your own issue. Never have that angry spirit. And have the attitude that someone does not deserve something, because you don’t have the same.

It is a sure sign of bitterness and arrogance that brings forth a petty lifestyle.

A lifestyle of judging, gossiping, maligning and inordinate competition along with inordinate ambitions.