

Welcome to WoW2, Women of Worship, Women of Witness. We held Raising Godly Women Prayer for school-age children and all those who care for them; therefore, there are no Meeting Notes from our August 2, 2022, meeting. This newsletter captures topics discussed during our August 9, 2022, meeting. It seeks to capture some, but not all key points from our evening together, with like topics being conveniently grouped together. We hope you are blessed as you join us on our journey.

Declaration of Faith: We will gain emotional wellness and strength for the Promised Land by believing, receiving, and obeying the truth of God's Word when it comes to deliverance from bondage, deliverance through sanctification, and deliverance from bitterness and doubt.

OPENING

We opened our evening in prayer and then began our discussion to finish Ecclesiastes chapter 7.

DISCUSSION

In **v1**, we noted a good name is better than a good ointment. Both a good name and a good ointment (perfume) are things you put on topically. You "wear" a good name just like you wear an ointment. Other things we noted about this verse:

We also **cross-referenced this verse to Proverbs 22:1**, which also talks about a good name.

Good **character** leaves a mark. When your name goes before you, people treat you according to your reputation.

We can be **compared** to someone close to us with the same family name. A good or a bad reputation can cause a problem, especially when you have older siblings that go before you.

In **v2**, we noted, there's a lot of **contemplation when we're mourning!** We also looked at Psalm 90:10, because no matter

Upcoming Events

August 23

Social

September 6

Night of Prayer

September 24

Pearls of Wisdom Retreat

Current Vision

Revive! Restore. Refresh.
Renew – Emotional wellness in the wilderness and strength for the Promised Land.

Scripture(s)

Isaiah 57:15; Isaiah 43:19

Additional Verses: Romans 8:15, Romans 6:4, 2 Timothy 2:15, Ephesians 4:23, Romans 12:1-2, Hebrews 12:14-15, James 1:5-6, and John 6:29

Inspirational Song(s)

"On Our Way" by MercyMe feat. Sam Wesley

"Revive" by WorshipMob

Current Study:

Ecclesiastes

how long we live, this verse tells us even our best days are “but trouble and sorrow.” **Life is short**, so we should cherish what we have and be present in the moment. We also discussed how our last day is better than our birth, because the work we've done before our departure is more important to God than the moment we were born. If we understand the importance of a divine moment orchestrated by God, we can be present to everything that connects us to His perfect will even if we don't enjoy it. The objective is to not miss out on God's goodness in the process of the chronological order of time.

In v3, we discussed the heart grows in wisdom during times of grief. **The secret is staying content in times of need and in times of overflow** by knowing that God is still there, even in the sorrow! As the apostle Paul put it in Philippians 4:12, we can learn how to be content when we have little and when we have much.

In v4, we noted it's important to **recognize our surroundings** and be discerning within them.

In v5, we noted it's important to **listen to the wise and not fools**. In essence, we should watch what we hear, so we can win the war that happens in our mind! So, don't believe what we hear without checking it out, because even if it's a common saying, that doesn't automatically make it true. It takes discernment and initiative to find the truth for ourselves, since there are times when “the Bible says” is used or a specific quote given, but that's not what it says or the understanding of what was said is not accurate. As a fallible human being, I can honestly attest to having misquoted and misinterpreted Scripture! So, please verify things for yourself!

In v6, we had a little fun with this by asking, “when does ‘crackling’ become cackling. We settled on cackling is laughter that is not produced from pure joy; it's also laughter that's not appropriate or beneficial in the moment. In other words, **we can't always laugh about everything**. We should **be intentional** and not just be silly all the time, and we should also **be mindful** of when people are being cruel to others in their laughter.

In v7, this verse addresses **reactions of the heart**. In one instance, oppression can turn a wise person into a fool or as the KJV translates it, oppression can make “a wise man mad.” In other words, it seems this is saying when someone's celebration is

Homework

Ecclesiastes 7

Next Meeting

Tuesday, August 16, 2022 @ 7:00pm.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about information contained in this document, please email us at wow2@wow2women.com or complete a Contact Form on our website.

inappropriate it can impact the wise person in a negative way. This verse also points out, a bribe can corrupt the heart!

In v8, we said that's a FACT! The **end is better**, because in the beginning, you don't know the outcome, and you may not even have your footing under you! From **God's perspective**, He doesn't operate the same as we do. He knows the end, and He knows our response, even before a thing has begun for us!

In v9, this is another one we said, FACTS! We noted the key word is "abides" (some translations say "dwells"). All this means is **do not harbor anger in our heart!** Anger starts with offense, so don't be easily offended. God isn't making a change in our life to offend us, but to grow us. Moreover, if someone pushes our buttons, maybe that's a hint that we need to have less buttons to push!

In v10, we asked, "Did the good old days really exist? We **tend to remember things better than they actually were**. Plus, this could be an offense to God, since in essence we're saying, "God, you knew what you were doing then, but not now." We also discussed how looking back like this can be a way for our brains to have control over how we view the situation, BUT we can't go forward if we're looking back!

In v11, we noticed the words, "see the sun," and how everything Solomon has been talking about is "under the sun." Not sure how we came to this thought, but I wrote down, there is "Equity in the kingdom if you've sown the fruit of the Spirit." And those with fruit have more value in the kingdom! We also noted that **godly wisdom is our inheritance**, and it's a good inheritance since we have to partake in the things that happen "under the sun." After all, **wisdom is about the only thing that will help us get through life "under the sun."**

In v12, the importance of wisdom is thread throughout this verse. We noted, if we go to fight a war without wisdom, then we don't have a plan, which will result in our defeat! Moreover, wisdom gets us through the unseen fights that are happening in the spiritual realm all around us! Besides, if words move mountains, what can they do in the spiritual realm? We also noted if we know God's wisdom, we don't feel trapped in temptation. We know we have been provided a way out (1 Corinthians 10:13). Bottomline, **wisdom can work for us!**

In v13, Solomon asks a question to which we answered, "Nobody!"

In v14, not knowing what happens when we're no longer around led us back to Philippians 4:12 (see note on v3). We acknowledged **if we've never had a bad day, how can we appreciate the good ones?** This speaks to the day of need versus the day of overflow. Be joyful in both, because our contentment is not in the day, but in God's goodness. Even when our expectations are not being met, we can still look at the goodness of God's character and not at what is happening around us!

Some highlights from our takeaways

His will and not looking back comparing the latter days to the former days stood out.

By looking at Romans 12:2, we can test and approve His perfect will as a good thing simply because of His character; His character is what helps us to see we have good options! And because He's given us opportunities, we should take what He says seriously.

Seeing how one sin can destroy so much good. When someone does a lot of good, but makes one mistake, sometimes that mistake is all that's remembered! So, be intentional, be grateful, and be mindful.

The heart gains wisdom during the valley, and not just on the mountaintop. The valley may not feel good, but it is good, so still choose righteousness, holiness, and salvation, simply because of God's goodness.

When we're in mourning, we're at a low point, and that's when we can be poured into!

RESOURCES

Links to our inspirational Song(s) supporting our vision:

"MercyMe feat. Sam Wesley - On Our Way (Official Lyric Video)," (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9R8x5YlbQ0Q>).

"Revive," (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rYEOCM9rbMg>).

Links to the Song(s) from this meeting:

"Ryan Ellis - Heart of the Father (Official Lyric Video)," (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=34GcRkWIY3s>)

CLOSING

We collected our **praise reports** and **prayer requests** for the evening and then closed in prayer.