

# The Futility of Life Without God

Ecclesiastes 7:1-14

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**Main Point:** Since God wants better for us, we must give Him our best.

**It's better to have a good \_\_\_\_\_ than to have great riches (vs. 1).**

1. The word "name" in Hebrew refers to reputation or \_\_\_\_\_ (Proverbs 22:1).
2. In that culture, "precious ointment" was pricey \_\_\_\_\_ or costly cologne, often used to make people smell good in hot weather when baths were infrequent and deodorant nonexistent.
3. John Wooden – "Be more concerned with your character than your reputation. Character is what you \_\_\_\_\_ are. Reputation is what people say you are."

**It's better to participate in a \_\_\_\_\_ than to party at a feast (vs. 2).**

1. In that culture, people would gather in a house and grieve together for \_\_\_\_\_ days.
2. Funerals are foundational for us to be reminded of the \_\_\_\_\_ of life and the futility of living our lives apart from faith in Christ.
3. Ways to take death to heart.
  - It forces us to remember how death comes to \_\_\_\_\_ because of the sin of Adam and Eve (Genesis 2:17, 6:23).
  - It reminds us life is brief and eternity is long.
  - It teaches us to \_\_\_\_\_ our days (Psalm 90:12).
  - It urges us to evaluate what we're living for and to repent if needed.
  - We're reminded of the glorious \_\_\_\_\_ and the fact that Jesus has conquered the devil, our depravity, and death itself (1 Corinthians 15:55-58).
  - It's only when we are born twice through the new birth that we avoid the second death in the lake of fire and live forever (Revelation 21:8).

**It's better to listen to a \_\_\_\_\_ than to go through life laughing (vs. 5).**

1. When dry thorns were lit under a pot, they burned quickly, made loud \_\_\_\_\_ sounds, and gave off little heat.
2. Solomon said, a fool cackles like crackling thorns in a fire.
3. Ecclesiastes 7:7 is a \_\_\_\_\_ that the wise can fall into madness and corruption if they don't guard their hearts.

**It's better to be \_\_\_\_\_ than proud (vs. 8).**

1. The word "lodges" means "to \_\_\_\_\_ or rest" in the heart.
2. When anger takes up residence and makes its home in our hearts, instead of getting better, we end up getting \_\_\_\_\_ and biting people's heads off (Psalm 37:8).

3. One of the best ways to evaporate anger from your conversations is to germinate \_\_\_\_\_ (Proverbs 15:1).

**It's better to \_\_\_\_\_ in the present than to be locked into the past (vs. 10).**

1. Suggestions to help us remember the past while embracing the present.
  - Let \_\_\_\_\_ (Isaiah 43:18).
  - Look \_\_\_\_\_ (Isaiah 43:19).
  - Lean \_\_\_\_\_ (Philippians 3:13-14).
2. These are the days in which we are called to live, and this is the culture we are called to impact.
3. Someone has said that these are the "good old days" we're going to miss in the days ahead.

**It's better to have \_\_\_\_\_ in God's providence than to fight against Him (vs. 13-14).**

1. The word "consider" means "to observe, \_\_\_\_\_, and perceive."
2. God can do anything and there is \_\_\_\_\_ I can do to thwart His plans (Job 12:14).
3. Because God has \_\_\_\_\_ prosperity and adversity, we must accept the good and the bad (Isaiah 45:7).