

The School of Hard Knocks Notes

Ecclesiastes 7:14-29

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Main Point: Life only makes sense when we live it for the Lord.

Eight Lesson Learned in the School of Hard Knocks from Ecclesiastes 7:15-19

1. Understand life is often _____ (vs.15).
 - It especially bothered him that the righteous don't always prosper, nor do the wicked always _____.
 - Solomon struggled when he saw a righteous man _____ while an unrighteous man lived a prolonged life.
2. Don't be a spiritual _____ (vs. 16-17)
 - Notice the phrase, "do not make yourself." This is a reflexive verb, meaning it's something we do to ourselves, or more literally when the action is "directed or turned back on itself."
 - The truly righteous strive to _____ God's Word while the overly righteous seek to add to God's Word.
 - We must avoid two extremes: self-righteousness and sinful _____.
3. _____ God and turn from evil (vs 18, Jeremiah 32:40, Exodus 20:20).
 - The word "fear" means "to revere with holy _____."
 - He is the one from whom the angels in glory _____ their faces.
 - He brings _____ and judgment and yet is loving, merciful, gracious, and compassionate, inviting us to come before Him as children approach their fathers.
4. Walk the pathway of _____ (vs 19, Proverbs 24:5)
 - Christianity is not a list of regulations of do's and don'ts, but a relationship of _____ where we're called to live wisely.
5. Recognize the _____ of sin (vs 20, Romans 3:10, 1 Kings 8:46, Psalm 14:3).
 - Because of Adam's fall into sin, the entire human race has been plunged into depravity.
6. Trust God even when His ways are _____ (vs. 23-25).
 - Can you worship a God who isn't obligated to explain His actions to you?
 - The phrase "to know" means, "to _____."
 - "Search out" means "to _____ out and to explore."
 - While God has revealed many things in His Word, He has _____ told us everything (Deuteronomy 29:29, Psalm 36:6, Job 11:7, Romans 11:33).
7. Pursue purity by putting up moral _____ (vs. 26).

8. _____ you are a sinner in need of the Savior (vs 27-28)
- One reason Solomon could not find a virtuous woman is because he only saw women as sexual _____ and never took the time to discover who they were as image-bearers of God.
 - God won't bless your relationship, and you will be plagued with guilt and _____.
 - This teaching in verse 29 is rooted in the opening chapters of Genesis
 - God made man _____ (Genesis 1:26, 31)
 - Upright means "right, _____, straight."
 - But they have sought out many _____ (Genesis 3:6).
 - The word "many" refers to an abundance of iniquity and "schemes" has the idea of "inventions and evil _____."
 - We would get three "F's" on our holiness report card.
 - Failure (Romans 3:23).
 - Futility (Ecclesiastes 7:15).
 - Final Judgment (Hebrews 9:27).
 - Because of Adam's sin, we're all sinners and we're all _____ from God.
 - But Jesus, as the second Adam, exchanged His _____ for our rottenness (Romans 5:17).