

Folly is Fatal Notes
Ecclesiastes 10:1-20
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November 2-3, 2024

Main Point: It's better to go the way of wisdom than to fall into foolishness.

Intro to Chapter 10

1. This chapter is made up of short _____.
2. We can categorize them according to two contrasting ways to live: we can live _____, or we can live foolishly.
3. Chapter 10 warns us about the foolishness of _____.
4. A fool is not someone with a lack of intellectual ability, but someone who has lost their _____ compass.
 - The fool is one who doesn't _____ God or follow His ways.
 - The fool knows the right thing to do but instead does the _____, or simply does nothing (Proverbs 1:32).

Lessons to Learn

1. Don't let a foolish decision wreck your _____ (vs. 1)
 - Solomon is using a pungent illustration to communicate how easy it is to wreck one's reputation.
 - Examples:
 - King David, known as a man after God's own heart, who after 40 years of faithfulness, _____ after Bathsheba while she was taking a bath.
 - Noah, who spent decades building the ark by faith, only to get _____ after the flood and embarrass himself in front of his own children.
 - Moses, after years of faithful obedience, in one outburst of anger whacked the rock in the wilderness and was _____ from entering the Promised Land.
 - These are powerful warnings about how just _____ unguarded moment, one careless decision, or one hasty word can destroy the reputation of even the godliest man or woman.
 - Your reputation is _____, and sin's consequences are devastating (1 Corinthians 5:6).
2. Guard your _____ or they will lead to foolish behavior (vs. 2).
 - The word "heart" in Hebrew represents the _____ of a person, or the inner self.
 - The heart is the seat of the mind, _____, and will.
 - It's where people think, feel, and make _____.

- The word “right” refers to the position of _____, strength, and integrity as used by David (Psalm 16:8).
 - The word “left” in the Bible refers to what is _____, bad, or evil (Matthew 25:33).
 - When a person makes foolish decisions, their very _____ and actions announce to everyone around that he or she is a fool (vs. 3, Proverbs 13:16).
3. Cultivate a _____ spirit to diffuse anger (vs. 4-7).
 - A soft answer turns away wrath (Proverbs 15:1, 25:15).
 4. Be prepared for _____ things to happen (vs. 8).
 - If we choose to exact revenge, or seek to harm others, things can come back on us.
 5. Take the time to stay _____ (vs. 10).
 - Some people work twice as hard and only see half the results because they don’t stay spiritually sharp.
 6. Act in a _____ fashion (vs. 11).
 - While it’s important to prepare, we also need to make sure we don’t procrastinate.
 7. Watch your _____ (vs. 12-13, Proverbs 10:21, 15:2, 18:2).
 - Some people talk incessantly while not really saying anything (Ecclesiastes 10:14).
 - The more we talk, the greater our chances of _____ with our tongue (Proverbs 10:19, 29:20).
 8. Don’t _____ the way of a fool (vs. 15).
 9. Avoid self-_____ (vs. 16-17).
 - The whole book of Ecclesiastes warns of the danger of wasting our lives by indulging in excess _____ while searching for purpose and meaning.
 - Eat all you can, drink all you can, and get all you can is the motto of many Americans today.
 10. Refuse to speak _____ of others (vs. 20).
 - Jesus puts us all on notice in Luke 12:2-3.

Action Steps

1. Repent right now of any foolish belief or behavior you’ve been holding on to.
2. Identify one thing you’ve been procrastinating about and tackle it today.
3. Sharpen yourself spiritually by striving to read the Bible every day and joining a Growth Group.
4. Concentrate on bringing the fragrance of Christ to every conversation you have as you live on mission with your neighbors.
5. In order to cultivate calmness while living in our culture, pause and pray for our election on Monday at 6:00 p.m. and then attend the unreached prayer night for the nations at 7:00 p.m.