

“Extremes”
Ecclesiastes 7:13-18
New Hope Community Church
March 4th, 2018

A. Our Limitations Should Point Us to God Alone (13,14)

1. Admittedly, there are many things that are decidedly **twisted**
 - In the realm of **nature**
 - In the realm of **health**
 - In the realm of **society**
2. These twisted things cause great **uncertainty** in life
 - In times of prosperity, **rejoice**
 - In times of adversity, recognize your **need** for God

B. Dangerous Extremes Can Take Our Focus Off of God (16-18)

1. The danger of excessive righteousness
 - This is not a warning against **God** given righteousness
 - This is a warning against **man** produced righteousness
2. The danger of excessive wisdom
 - This is not a warning against **God** given wisdom
 - This is a warning against **man** produced wisdom

► **KEY QUESTION:** What are the dangers of these extremes?

- (1) Extremes become the **focus** in place of God
- (2) Extremes needlessly **separate** people
- (3) Extremes promote **self righteous** attitudes
- (4) Extremes prevent a person from being **teachable**

3. The danger of excessive wickedness and foolishness
 - God grants all people the opportunity to **acknowledge** Him
 - There is a point at which His patience meets His **anger**
 - There is a warning against putting God to the **test**

C. Our Safeguard Is A Reverent Focus On God Himself (18)

1. We are in constant danger of becoming **extremists**
2. Our flesh is prone to **resisting** what God has designed (v. 29)
3. In proper reverence for God we can hold fast to **balance**
 - In God we find the **source** of all true virtues
 - Just as He models, we must never exalt one virtue at the **expense** of another

Life Group Meeting
Ecclesiastes 7:13-18

QUESTIONS

1. Read Ecclesiastes 7:13-18
2. As you think about the world after the Fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, how do you explain the presence of things that are ‘twisted’ from the way they originally were (predators, calamities, pain, sickness, poverty, death). They appeared on the earth, but by whose hand did they come about?
3. Clearly, the human race has no power to reverse and straighten these things out. What good if any do these twisted things serve?
4. What do you think it means to be excessively righteous and excessively wise? Have you seen this?
5. Do you agree that the temptation to become ‘extreme’ in one area above another is a potential danger to us? Can you share an example from your own life?
6. There are four suggested dangers that result from extremes. Can you think of others? Have you seen any of these dangers result from extremes that people pursued?
7. What do you think about the comment that there is a point at which God’s patience meets His anger when it comes to people who are excessively wicked and foolish? Do you agree? Where is that point of meeting?
8. How will keeping our eyes fixed fearfully (reverently) upon Jesus Christ keep us from the dangers of extremes?
9. Why must we never exalt one virtue at the expense of another? Or do you believe we should? Which one? Why?