

SOME BETTER THINGS.

INTRO.

- A. Read text: **Ecc. 7:1-8.**
- B. Regarding the text:
 - 1. We should seek after things that are better.
 - 2. The first half of chapter seven offers “counsel for better living” with a series of comparisons.
- C. **Ecclesiastes 7:1-8** lists several things that are better.

DISCUSSION: LET US OBSERVE...

I. A GOOD NAME IS BETTER THAN PRECIOUS OINTMENT (7:1) REPUTATION.

- A. The value of a good name cannot be overemphasized.
 - 1. A good name is valuable (**Pro. 22:1**).
 - 2. A spoiled reputation is hard to mend.
- B. Why is a good name valuable?
 - 1. Success depends on our reputation (**Matt. 5:15**).
 - 2. Our reputation sets the groundwork for our evangelism.
 - 3. Our reputation will outlive us (**Heb. 11:4**).

II. THE DAY OF DEATH IS BETTER THAN THE DAY OF ONE’S BIRTH (7:1).

- A. This day holds our greatest reward!
 - 1. **Phil 1:21.**
 - 2. **Phil. 1:23.**
- B. Notice how God views death:
 - 1. **Psalms 116:15.**
 - 2. **Rev. 14:13.**

III. SORROW IS BETTER THAN LAUGHTER (7:3).

- A. A little hard to understand!
- B. God’s children are to enjoy happiness.
 - 1. **Phil. 3:1.**
 - 2. **Phil. 4:4.**
- C. Then WHY, “sorrow is better...”
 - 1. We learn many great lessons when we overcome afflictions!
 - 1) **Psa. 119:67.**
 - 2) **Psa. 119:71.**
- D. Proper sorrow can bring us to repentance (**2 Cor. 7:9-10**).
- E. Godly sorrow produces the guilt of sin (**2 Sam. 12**). Nathan confronts David.

IV. THE REBUKE OF THE WISE IS BETTER THAN THE SONG OF FOOLS (7:5).

- A. Most people do not like to be rebuked.
- B. Rebuke means to correct, to admonish.
 - 1. Proper rebuke can bring correction.
 - 2. **Pro. 15:5.**
 - 3. **Prov. 15:31-32.**
 - 4. **Prov. 27:6.**

V. BETTER IS THE END THAN THE BEGINNING (7:8).

- A. I suppose all have thought about this verse.
 - 1. We have enjoyed great days in this life. For the faithful the last day is best!
 - 2. It matters little when or where I was born.
 - 1) We all are born... then we will all die.

2) This is our greatest appointment (**Heb. 9:27**).

B. The truth spoken here depends upon what is between the beginning and the end!

1. For the Christian the end is far greater than the beginning.

1) **2 Tim. 4:6-8.**

2) **1 Pet. 5:4.**

2. Paul's view of the end-of-life: **Phil. 1:23.**

VI. CONCLUSION:

A. Striving for the better things makes life meaningful.

B. Salvation is best!