 **Lesson 11**

“How to Be Better Off[[1]](#footnote-1)”

*Ecclesiastes 7:1-14*

We're now diving into the second half of the book of Ecclesiastes. In the first half, Solomon shared his experiences 'under the sun,' trying everything only to find it all fleeting and vain. But now, he transitions from recounting his actions to imparting wisdom. What can we learn from his insights and experiences? In this section, Solomon emphasizes the concept of 'good' or 'better' eleven times, highlighting the brighter aspects of life. It's a passage focused on **how to be “better off”** by living according to Godly wisdom.

**Consider life and death (7:1-4).**

* A good reputation is better than perfume (v. 1a).
* Your death-day is better than your birthday (v. 1b).
* Mourning is better than partying (vs. 2, 4).
* Sorrow is better than laughter (v. 3).

*Other Notes:*

**Consider wisdom and foolishness (7:5-7).**

* An unwanted rebuke is better than an attractive song (v. 5).
* Compare the messages (vs. 6-7).
  + The fool’s message sounds nice, but it’s meaningless.
  + The wise man’s message sounds harsh, but it’s tested.
    - He is tempted to give up.
    - He is tempted to compromise.

*Other Notes:*

**Consider the past, present, and future (7:8-10).**

* The end is better than the beginning (v. 8a).
* Patience is better than pride (vs. 8b-10).
  + Pride leads to angry outbursts.
  + Pride leads to foolish nostalgia.

*Other Notes:*

**Consider wisdom and money (7:11-12).**

* Both are profitable (v. 11).
* Both provide protection (v. 12a).
* But wisdom gives life (v. 12b).

*Other Notes:*

**Consider good times and bad (7:13-14).**

* God directs all things (v. 13).
* We respond to His direction (v. 14).

*Other Notes:*

**Prayer**

**Scripture**: So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

Psalm 90:12

**College Student of the Night: Ryleigh Dawson**

* Junior at PCC
* Prayer Requests:
  + Upcoming projects
  + Overall workload is greater this year (classes, job, etc.)

**Single Focus/Cross Impact Requests:**

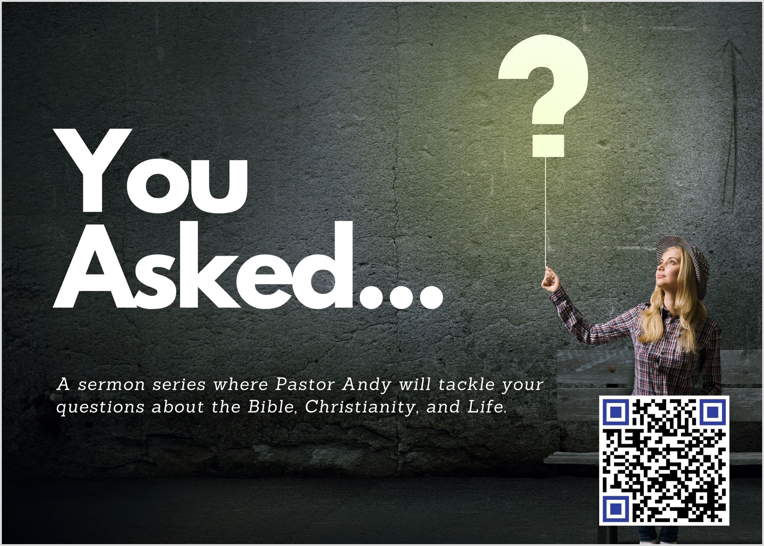
* Cross Impact IUPUI, Purdue, Ball State, and UIndy
* Potential at IU, Marion, and Butler
* Single Focus (Connect, Grow, Serve)
* Sunday Soul-Winning Efforts
* **Summer Missions Trip**

**Specific Requests:**

* Jack Elms, Kendall Elms, Jesiah Achenbach, and Max Garcia in military training/service
* Joseph LaPointe’s back and spirit
* Jessica’s Unsaved friend in Mormonism
* Sarah’s family’s salvation
* Aaron Bott and family- Soldier in Kuwait (Joe Forti’s friend)
* Ian’s unsaved family
* James as he recovers from his diabetic episode (Hau’s friend).
* Elizabeth’s coworker who is recovering from surgery and needs to have strong recovery.
* Jessi Gold’s search for an internship.
* **Luke and Delilah Howell (and the Pixley family)- Lost their baby this week.**

**Announcements:**

* March Madness Bracket Challenge
* March 24- SNF- Meeting at the Montgomery’s House for the Kenosha Missions Trip
* Beef and Boards- April 12



**Order of Service for tonight:**

* **Opening Game**: Bracket Challenge
* **Announcements**:
* **Songs**:
  + Constrained by Christ (p. 141)
  + Walk Worthy (on screen)
* **Prayer**:
* **Message**: Pastor Andy

1. This sermon title came from Warren Wiersbe’s “Be Series” book on Ecclesiastes. “Be Satisfied.” [↑](#footnote-ref-1)