

## Passage Study Guide - Ecclesiastes 6:10-7:29

Series: Ecclesiastes



### Part 1: Getting to the Big Idea

*Questions get to the Big Idea of the passage*

1. What is the Preacher searching for in this passage (6:12, 7:25)?
2. In this passage, the Preacher seeks the most advantageous ways for humanity to live the best “life hacks” or “schemes.” Consider 7:1-13 and 7:15-18. What are some of these schemes for life? Summarise Preacher’s advice.
3. What does the Preacher conclude about his search for an advantageous way to live (Refer to 6:10-12, 7:13-14 and 7:23-24)?
4. Read Proverbs 5 and 9:13-18. The adulteress in Proverbs is personified as Madame Folly and she represents foolishness. She contrasts Lady Wisdom of Proverbs 1:20-33. How does the Preacher describe his encounter with wisdom and foolishness in 7:25-28?
5. Why has the Preacher been ensnared by Madame Folly in his quest for the “good life” (7:23-25, v27, v29)?
6. What is his ultimate conclusion about God and humanity in 7:20 and 7:29? How is foolishness connected to humanity’s scheming?

### Part 2: Takeaways & Applications

*Applying the passage to our lives to grow in Christlikeness*

#### Fallen Condition Questions

*Considering our idols and temptations; how we are both sinners and sufferers*

1. The passage is filled with the Preacher’s suggestions that one can live by. Here are some we have paraphrased: which of these do you sometimes ascribe to?
  - a) Prepare for the worst to manage expectations (7:1-4)
  - b) Wise living, like money, protects us from life’s woes (7:11-12)
  - c) Living by moderation rather than being consistently righteous (7:15-18)How might these things be contrary to how the gospel compels us to live?

2. The Preacher connects the crookedness of this world with man’s instinct to “scheme.” We can tend to respond to crookedness in this world with our own scheming. What are some “life hacks,” “wisdom” or “schemes” in our culture that we have thought helpful and advantageous? How might these potentially prevent us from depending on God or lead us away from Him?

#### Personal Renewal Questions

*Considering how we can be renewed and transformed in Christlikeness*

3. What is the observation that the Preacher finds in v29? How did Jesus respond to the “crookedness” in the world and how does it help us to make sense of and overcome life’s crookedness?

4. Consider John 10: 27-30 and 15:5-11. What does Jesus offer to us that is better than the “advantageous life?” How does that encourage us to seek God for ultimate wisdom in our lives?

### **Shaping Church Culture Questions**

*Considering how the gospel shapes and permeates the culture within our community*

5. End the session by going to God in confession and repentance. Commit one another in prayer by asking the Spirit to remind us that we do not need to depend on our own “schemes” to gain the advantage in life, but to commit ourselves wholeheartedly to Jesus’ leading, care and guidance.