



# ECCLESIASTES 10

DEAD FLIES AND WISE MEN



Ecclesiastes 10:1-4

Dead flies make the perfumer's ointment give off a stench;  
so a little folly outweighs wisdom and honor.

2 A wise man's heart inclines him to the right,  
but a fool's heart to the left.

3 Even when the fool walks on the road, he lacks sense,  
and he says to everyone that he is a fool.

4 If the anger of the ruler rises against you, do not leave your place,  
for calmness will lay great offenses to rest.

A brief look at the meaning of the word “fool” in scripture gives us this:

- ◇ A fool - Hates knowledge Pr 1:22
- ◇ Takes no pleasure in understanding Pr 18:2
- ◇ Enjoys wicked schemes Pr 10:23
- ◇ A fool proclaims folly Pr 12:23
- ◇ Spurns a parent’s discipline Pr 15:5
- ◇ Speaks Perversity Pr 19:1.
- ◇ He is quick tempered Pr 12:16
- ◇ and mocks at sin Pr 14:8
- ◇ He despises his mother Pr 15:20
- ◇ and brings grief to his parents Pr 17:25
- ◇ and in case you think it only applies to males we have Pr 14:1 A foolish woman tears down her own house. Ultimately these all are part of the summary definition of a fool in Psalm 14:1

The fool says in his heart there is no God.

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Ecclesiastes 10:5-7

There is an evil that I have seen under the sun, as it were an error proceeding from the ruler: **6** folly is set in many high places, and the rich sit in a low place. **7** I have seen slaves on horses, and princes walking on the ground like slaves.

Ecclesiastes 10:8-11

He who digs a pit will fall into it,  
and a serpent will bite him who breaks through a wall.

9 He who quarries stones is hurt by them,  
and he who splits logs is endangered by them.

10 If the iron is blunt, and one does not sharpen the edge,  
he must use more strength,  
but wisdom helps one to succeed.

11 If the serpent bites before it is charmed,  
there is no advantage to the charmer.

Teachable moments





Ecclesiastes 10:12-15

12 The words of a wise man's mouth win him favor,  
but the lips of a fool consume him.

13 The beginning of the words of his mouth is  
foolishness,  
and the end of his talk is evil madness.

14 A fool multiplies words,  
though no man knows what is to be,  
and who can tell him what will be after him?

15 The toil of a fool wearies him,  
for he does not know the way to the city.

## Revelation 21:1-4

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.  
2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.  
3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

Ecclesiastes 10:16-17

16 Woe to you, O land, when your king is a child,  
and your princes feast in the morning!

17 Happy are you, O land, when your king is the son of  
the nobility,  
and your princes feast at the proper time,  
for strength, and not for drunkenness!

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Ecclesiastes 10:17

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Ecclesiastes 10:18

18 Through sloth the roof sinks in,  
and through indolence the house leaks.

Matthew 7:24-25

24 “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.

Ecclesiastes 10:19-20

19 Bread is made for laughter,  
and wine gladdens life,  
and money answers everything.

20 Even in your thoughts, do not curse the king,  
nor in your bedroom curse the rich,  
for a bird of the air will carry your voice,  
or some winged creature tell the matter.



Matthew 6:19-21

19 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Ecclesiastes 10:20

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