
Text: Ecclesiastes 7:16-18: Take any good thing and give it to fallen man, and that “good thing” and the goodness of it will soon turn to wickedness and sin.

“Be not righteous over much; neither make thyself over wise”

There are two (2) things mentioned in this passage that we could never have TOO MUCH of, (if in fact) these things come from God; those two (2) things are righteousness and wisdom.

To begin with, I don't believe Solomon is teaching us that we can have “too much” righteousness or wisdom from God. THEN what is he teaching us?

1st: In regard to “be not righteous over much”: Let us see what the Word of God says about righteousness and being righteous:

Matthew 5:6, 6:33, Proverbs 11:4-6, 19, 12:28, 13:6, Psalm 5:12

Brethren, we are to desire righteousness that comes from God, which is an attribute of God.

Psalm 145:17: “The LORD is righteous in all His ways, and holy in all His works”!

Yours/my attitudes should be, give me more of God's righteousness within, so that I might not sin against God; so that I would be more like my Lord Jesus Christ!

So then, what did Solomon mean to convey and teach us when he wrote, “BE NOT RIGHTEOUS OVER MUCH”? What is “this righteousness” that I am to shun and turn away from?

Could it be that he spoke of being filled with a righteousness of our own making, and with a righteousness that does not come from God, but from our own hearts?

CB: “Every right principle has its counterfeit”

For us as Christians, we must resist the temptation of “making ourselves righteous over much”, which is NOT to be “more” like Christ, but to be full of self-righteousness, which is nothing more than pride/wickedness. O Christian, let not your righteousness be your own and a devising of your own heart, but let it be from Christ! Luke 18:9-14, Proverbs 30:12, Isaiah 65:5, John 9:34, Romans 10:3

And the 2nd danger that Solomon warned us of: “neither making thyself over wise”.

You cannot have “too much” of the wisdom of God! In fact, Solomon taught us in the Proverbs to “GET WISDOM”; but also Paul and James, the Apostles of Christ:

Proverbs 4:5-7, Colossians 3:16, 4:5, James 1:5

You cannot have TOO MUCH wisdom from God, but you can become conceited with “YOUR OWN” wisdom and wise in your own conceit!

Proverbs 3:7, 26:12, Isaiah 5:21, Romans 12:16, 1 Corinthians 3:18-20

Therefore, brethren: Don't “make thyself” over wise, or conceitedly wise; cease from thine own wisdom; submit yourself to both the righteousness of God and to the wisdom of God. Don't “DESTROY YOURSELF” with your own self-righteousness and by your own conceited wisdom! Proverbs 16:18

(V17): Be not over much wicked, neither be thou foolish: why shouldst thou die before thy time?

Solomon (The Preacher), I believe is warning impenitent sinners against continuing in their sins, after being warned to repent of their sins; so, The Preacher warns, don't add to your sins to your own ruin!

Or as Paul wrote to the church at Rome; don't provoke God by continuing in your sins, even after you know that you're sinning against God and His Holy Word.

When you do this, you're treasuring up to yourselves the wrath of God because of your sins”.

Romans 2:5-9, 1 Thessalonians 2:14-16, Matthew 23:29-36

These sinners knew they were sinning against God, but still they provoked the Almighty to His face. This is what I believe Solomon spoke of when he wrote, “be not over much wicked, neither be thou foolish: why shouldest thou die before thy time”.

Consider Absalom, Ahab, Jezebel, Haman, Saul, and Judas; wicked men who knew the One Only True God but refused to humble themselves before Him in repentance and faith! Instead, they went on in their sins and died miserable deaths!

Ecclesiastes 7:16-18: