



Don't Judge The Book By Its Cover
Text: Ecclesiastes 6:1 – 7:29
Series: Escaping Futility, Enjoying Fulfillment,
The Book of Ecclesiastes, #5
Pastor Lyle L. Wahl
September 22, 2024

Theme: **Fulfillment depends on character, not circumstances.**

Depending on outward circumstances leads to futility.

1. Good things do not guarantee that life is good. (6:1-9)
2. Bad things do not guarantee that life is bad. (7:1-10)
3. Seen when we have good and bad things in perspective. (6:10-12, 7:13-14)

Depending on character leads to fulfillment.

1. The wisdom of true righteousness. (7:15-18)
2. The strength of true wisdom. (7:11-12, 19-22)
3. The limits and scarcity of wisdom. (7:13, 23-29)

In My Life This Week

As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.

Monday. Read 6:1 - 7:14. Circumstances — good or bad — neither determine nor indicate quality of life. List the catalogue of *the good* in 6:1-9 and *the bad* in 7:1-10. As you look at this lists, how much do you depend on these things in evaluating fulfillment for yourself or others? Review 6:10-12 and 7:13-14 and summarize the perspective given.

Tuesday. Read and think through 7:15-18. How do you deal with the inequity presented in verse 15? Briefly summarize “The wisdom of true righteousness” here (see the outline for any notes you took on Sunday). Does this describe how you live?

Wednesday. True wisdom from God has great advantages. Identify the ones listed in 7:11-12, 19-22. Remember that God offers His wisdom to you for every day and every situation — if you have not already done so, start memorizing James 1:5.

Thursday. The limits and scarcity of wisdom is the point of 7:23-29 as well as 6:13. How do you handle the questions and problems that are beyond your understanding? One of the applications from the truth here is to be cautious with the current wisdom and answers that people promote and want others to follow. 1 Thessalonians 5:21 tells us “Examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good.”

Friday – Saturday. On Sunday we plan to look at chapters 8 and 9. Read through the chapters in preparation for our time together.