

# Ecclesiastes – Wisdom Protects, Folly Pollutes

Guard Your Heart from Folly (vv. 1-4)

Walk Wisely In a Broken World (vv. 5-11)

Beware the Damage Folly Spreads (vv. 12-20)

Worship the Wise King

## Ecclesiastes 10:1-20 ESV

- <sup>1</sup> Dead flies make the perfumer's ointment give off a stench;  
so a little folly outweighs wisdom and honor.
- <sup>2</sup> A wise man's heart inclines him to the right,  
but a fool's heart to the left.
- <sup>3</sup> Even when the fool walks on the road, he lacks sense,  
and he says to everyone that he is a fool.
- <sup>4</sup> If the anger of the ruler rises against you, do not leave your place,  
for calmness will lay great offenses to rest.
- <sup>5</sup> There is an evil that I have seen under the sun, as it were an error  
proceeding from the ruler: <sup>6</sup> folly is set in many high places, and the  
rich sit in a low place. <sup>7</sup> I have seen slaves on horses, and princes  
walking on the ground like slaves.
- <sup>8</sup> He who digs a pit will fall into it,  
and a serpent will bite him who breaks through a wall.
- <sup>9</sup> He who quarries stones is hurt by them,  
and he who splits logs is endangered by them.
- <sup>10</sup> If the iron is blunt, and one does not sharpen the edge,  
he must use more strength,  
but wisdom helps one to succeed.
- <sup>11</sup> If the serpent bites before it is charmed,  
there is no advantage to the charmer.
- <sup>12</sup> The words of a wise man's mouth win him favor,  
but the lips of a fool consume him.
- <sup>13</sup> The beginning of the words of his mouth is foolishness,  
and the end of his talk is evil madness.
- <sup>14</sup> A fool multiplies words,  
though no man knows what is to be,  
and who can tell him what will be after him?
- <sup>15</sup> The toil of a fool wearies him,  
for he does not know the way to the city.

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