

# CHAPTER 6:1-7:14

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## KEY VERSE(S)—

## OUTLINE—

- I. **OBSERVATION:** When Pockets are Full but the Soul is Empty (6:1-12)
  - A. The Man who Does Not Benefit from His Wealth (6:1-2)
  - B. Tragedy of the Empty Soul (6:3-6)
  - C. What We Have is Better than What We Want (6:7-9)
  - D. Contending with God is Vanity (6:10-12)
- II. **INSTRUCTION:** Things That are Better for the Soul (7:1-14)
  - A. Good Name (7:1)
  - B. House of Mourning (7:2-4)
  - C. Rebuke of the Wise (7:5-7)
  - D. Accomplishment (7:8a)
  - E. Patience (7:8b-9)
  - F. Living in the Present Not the Past (7:10)
  - G. Wisdom (7:11-12)
  - H. Prosperity and Adversity (7:13-14)

## KEY WORDS (Themes)—

## SUMMARY—

The Preacher returns to the vanity of wealth—this time to the man who has acquired great wealth, but is denied the enjoyment of it (6:1-2). He lacks nothing that he desires, but his problem is he doesn't desire what he has—his soul is still empty (6:3). If he is not satisfied with what God provides him in abundance, then his very existence is cursed (6:3-6). The problem is that he is trying to fill the wrong appetite—and it is not just the wealthy man who makes this mistake (6:7-9).

For man to even think he knows what will fill himself is futile—God knows. It is even greater vanity to contend with the one who knows (6:10-12; cf. Jeremiah 10:23).

All of the things he mentions that are better, here in chapter 7, are better because of the effect they have on man's soul (cf. 6:3,7)—these lesser things in the comparison only affect his physical existence.

## QUESTIONS—

- 1) *Summarize this passage in one sentence.*
- 2) *Are riches, wealth, and honor evil things? What is the evil affliction associated with them (6:2)?*
- 3) *How is the stillborn child better than this man (6:3-6)?*
- 4) *What must a man learn in order to be happy with the things that he has (6:7)?*

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- 5) Answer the question the Preacher asked, “For what more has the wise man than the fool?” (6:8). Refer to verses in previous chapters to support your answer.
  - 6) How is man’s life like a shadow (6:12; cf. Psalm 144:4)?
  - 7) Why would the man be considered wise who recognizes the value of those things mentioned in chapter 7, when everyone else thinks that they are foolishness?
  - 8) What is the value of wisdom (7:11-14)?

**ASSIGNMENT—**

Man’s limited vision and understanding of life (6:10-12) gives him a distorted view of the worth of various things in his life. God is able to show us which is better and why it is better.

*Using a concordance, or reading back through the book of Ecclesiastes, record each of the verses where you find the word “better”.*

*Using the chart below record those things in chapters 6 and 7 that are better than their counterparts. Then explain how each is better for the soul of man than the other.*

Verse	The Better Thing	Better Than What?	How Is It Better?
6:3			
6:9			
7:1a			
7:1b			
7:2			
7:3			
7:5			
7:8a			
7:8b			
7:10			

**READING SCHEDULE—**

Read this passage every day before the upcoming class (check the box after each day that you read the passage)

Sunday   
  Monday   
  Tuesday   
  Wednesday   
  Thursday   
  Friday   
  Saturday