

Hello. /We will begin the 8th lecture on the book of Ecclesiastes. /Today's message is from Ecclesiastes 7. /The title of the chapter is "The Day of Death."

/First, the day of death is better than the day of birth. /Verses 1-4. /Second, it is better to hear rebuke than hear songs. /Verses 5-7. /Third, be patient in everything, and do good in today's work. /Verses 8-10.

/Fourth, /wisdom and knowledge are more precious than money. /Verses 11-12. /Fifth, man cannot fix what God has done. /Verses 13-14. /Sixth, do not be overly righteous or overly wise. /Verses 15-18.

/Seventh, do not take to heart the curses of man. /Verses 19-22. /Eighth, no one has mastered everything. /Verses 23-25. /Ninth, those in whom God does not delight will fall into the woman's snares. /Verse 26. /Tenth, Christ's birth and man's schemes. /Verses 27-29.

/First, the day of death is better than the day of birth. /Verses 1-4.
/Verse 1. Let us read. /A good name is better than precious ointment, and the day of death than the day of birth.

/The verse says, "A good name is better than precious ointment." /A "name" is a personality. /Here, a good name is the name of a person of faith. / "Judas Iscariot" is not a good name.

/How bad of a name is "Pilate"? /This Pilate nailed the sinless Jesus to the cross for his own benefit. /As a result, how cursed is the name "Pilate" today?

/Every Sunday morning, we say the Apostles' Creed. /In the Apostles' Creed, Pontius Pilate's name appears. /It says Jesus "suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried." /Sunday must be agonizing for Pontius Pilate, who is in hell.

/In Korea, ten million believers say the Apostles' Creed during the Sunday services. /How great is the name of Jesus? /Jesus saved us. /Therefore, a name of good faith is better than precious ointment.

/ "Precious ointment" soon disappears. /However, a precious name endures forever. /A patriot has a name. /There are those who dedicate their lives to their nation. /The nation's citizens respect such people.

/On the other hand, there are those who inflict harm on their country. /These people are remembered as traitors. /Those who sacrifice their lives for the nation are respected by the country's citizens.

/Thus their good name is better than precious ointment. /Here, the verse says that the day of death is better than the day of birth. /Which day do the people of the world think is better? /The people of the world say that the day of birth is better than the day of death.

/The day of birth is celebrated with cakes and presents. /However, the Bible says that the day of death is better. /Why does it say this? The Bible says that the death of a believer is a precious thing.

/Psalm 116:15 says, / “Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.”
/When a believer dies, it means that he has bore his fruit. /It is also a day when the believer is evaluated before God.

/The day the believer dies is the day he enters his home in heaven. /A house in this world will disappear, but a home in heaven will remain forever. /Therefore the day of death is better than the day of birth.

/The reason is we leave our dirty, ugly tents and move to a new place. /The death of his believers is precious in the LORD’s sight. /What is the meaning of death? /The death of the flesh is the end of life in the body.

/The death of the flesh means that the soul is separated from the physical body. /All of life’s natural relationships are severed. /The relationship with a husband. /The relationship with a friend. /The relationship with parents and children. /All these relationships are cut off.

/When believers go before God, they are all God’s children. /We believers are living as God’s sons. /Matthew 22:29 talks about this. /The Sadducees are asking questions to Jesus.

/They demandingly ask questions to Jesus about resurrection and marriage. /The questions are about marriage and resurrection. /In the Jewish country, there is a law of succession. /If an older brother dies after he has married a woman, the younger brother must marry the widow of his older brother.

/The Sadducees approached Jesus with a question regarding this law. /They asked Jesus this. /There are seven brothers, /and the oldest brother /died after he married. /The widow of this man married the second oldest brother.

/All seven brothers died after living with the woman. /Then, if there is a resurrection and a heaven, whose wife will this woman be? They asked Jesus this question. /Jesus answered in this way. /Jesus said, “You know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God.”

/ “For in the resurrection, they neither marry nor are given in marriage.” /Upon hearing this, the Sadducees had nothing to say. /As the Bible says, we will be like the angels in heaven. /All natural relationships of this world will come to an end.

/To where do we move? We move to heaven. /We are moving to God's house. /How good is this for us? /That is why the Preacher says that /the day of death is better than the day of birth.

/Why? /The answer is we believers move into our new homes in heaven. /There was a deacon at my church. /Her husband did not earn money, but he bothered his wife. /The deacon earns money for her household. /For this reason, the deacon despises her husband.

/But one day, the husband said this to the deacon. /He said, "When you enter heaven, I will hold onto your skirt and follow you in." /Then, because the deacon did not like her husband, she said, "Don't ever follow me there."

/However, later on, the husband came to repentance and became a man who served in the church. /Eventually, the deacon will enter heaven with her husband. /When they do enter heaven, they will not be in a married relationship. /Heaven is a place that transcends all familial relationships, for it is a place where we will live like angels.

/That is why the Preacher is speaking today. /He says that the day of death is better than the day of birth. /We will move to heaven. /We will directly see the Lord's face in heaven. /Heaven is the place in which all our human sufferings end.

/There is no death in heaven. /There is no sickness. /In heaven, there are no tears.

/If oil prices go up in this world, we save money by turning the lights off. /But in heaven, there is no night, so there is no need for lamps.

/The roads in heaven are made out of pure gold. /There is a story that goes like this. A rich man died one day. /An angel said to the rich man, "Let us now go to heaven." /However, the rich man was disappointed by the fact that he had worked his entire life without spending any of his earnings.

/The rich man begged the angel, / "Please, let me take two bags to heaven." /The man pleaded, and the angel allowed him to do so. /The rich man sold all his possessions and filled two bags with gold.

/The rich man was about to enter heaven when Peter came and told him that he could not take the bags with him. /The man told Peter, "These bags have been approved." /Peter told the man to open the bags.

/The rich man's bags were filled with gold. /Peter said, / "Why did you bring asphalt for the roads?" /In this world, gold may be expensive, but in heaven, the roads are made of pure gold.

/How grateful are we to enter such a place? /The Apostle Paul desired to leave the flesh to be with the Lord.

/Verse 2. It is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting, for this is the end of all mankind, and the living will lay it to heart.

/The verse says that it is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting. /Why is this so? There is an end to mankind. /What is the end of mankind? /Believers will leave this world and go before God.

/That is why the verse says, “And the living will lay it to heart. /The verse is telling us to be sure to remember this. /It is telling us to engrave it into our hearts. /This will be our end. /For this reason, people see a change in thought after they enter a house of mourning.

/One day, a man’s friend’s wife died. /This man saw his friend crying at the house of mourning. /After seeing this, the man returned to his wife and treated her well, fearing that she would die. /One day, a woman’s friend’s husband died. /She too returned from the house of mourning and treated her husband well.

/However, it is common for people to fight after visiting a house of feasting. /This is because people see the lives of their classmates. /When a woman sees a classmate who was not brightest student have a nice house and drive a nice car, she becomes jealous.

/When she returns home, she nags her husband, who has done no wrong. /This causes the married couple to argue. /Would you rather attend a house of feasting or go to a house of mourning? /When people go to a house of mourning, their hearts become somber.

/This is because they realize that this is the end of mankind. /For this reason, I always visit the house of mourning. /When a pastor visits the house of mourning and comforts believers, the believers find consolation. /Even though a house of mourning may be far away, we believers must pay the house a visit.

/We must try to visit even the farthest places. /A person remembers being comforted during a time of sadness. /This is the reason the Bible tells us to go to the house of mourning. /When we visit the house of mourning and care for people who have lost their loved ones, they will remember us and will come to church.

/A relative of a deacon I know despised people who believed in Jesus. /This person hated Christians because they moved around in groups. /However, the father of this person passed away.

/Everyday, the people of the church flocked to the house of mourning to serve and sing hymns, and the person experienced a change in heart. /After seeing how the Christians came to help during a difficult time, this person started attending church.

/Verse 3. Sorrow is better than laughter, for by sadness of face the heart is made glad.

/The verse says that sorrow is better than laughter. /It says that “for by sadness of face the heart is made glad.” /Why does the verse say that sorrow is better than laughter? /The verse is telling us to live with humble hearts.

/Matthew 5:4 says, / “Blessed are those who mourn, /for they shall be comforted.” /Psalm 51:17 says, / “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit.” /This is talking about a heart that grieves in God.

/Such grieving will help our faith grow. / “How can I live according to the will of God?” / “How did I come to commit this sin?” /In this way, we must pound our hearts and repent. /When we grieve in this way, our souls will grow.

/There are times when we are joyful, but there are times when we look back on ourselves and grieve. /The worries of the world cause cancer. /However, grieving according to the will of God will fulfill the work of salvation.

/1 Corinthians 7:10 says, / “For godly grief produces /a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, /whereas worldly grief /produces death.” /Worldly grief leads to death. /However, grief that is in accordance with the will of God /leads to salvation.

/Verse 4. /The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.

/I hope that you have the Preacher’s heart. /The heart of the fool lies in the house of mirth. /That is why Luke 6:25 says that there is woe to those who are full. /Blessed are those who weep.

/Second, it is better to hear rebuke than hear songs. /Verses 5-7.

/Verse 5. /It is better for a man to hear the rebuke of the wise than to hear the song of fools.

/The verse says, “It is better for a man to hear the rebuke of the wise than to hear the song of fools.” /Rebuke that is well accepted appears as a light. /Ephesians 5:13 says, / “But when anything /is exposed by the light, /it becomes visible, /for anything that becomes visible is light.”

/There is something on our faces. /Some people approach us and tell us that something is on our face. /When we clean it off, our face gives off a light. /However, if we do not accept rebuke, we walk around with the smudge still on our faces.

/A person had a cavity that caused his breath to smell. /Everyone who smelled his breath found it unpleasant, but no one told this person because they did not want to offend him. / This person roamed around giving off the unpleasant smell of his breath.

/However, his friend told him about his breath. /After hearing this, the person removed the cavity. /Now, his breath did not smell, so everything turned out well. /In this way, we benefit when we hear rebuke.

/The rebuke of the wise is better than the song of fools. /The Bible tells us that the word of God teaches us and rebukes us. /2 Timothy 3:16 says, / “All Scripture is breathed out by God /and profitable for teaching, for reproof, /for correction, /and for training in righteousness.”

/God’s words are in the form of teaching and reproof. /We are blessed when we accept God’s teaching. /We are blessed when we accept reproof. /We are changed into righteous people. /We are changed by the word of God.

/But if we do not accept the teachings, /we will eventually walk down a road of destruction. /I hope you become believers who accept reproof. /For this person, being rebuked is better than a hidden love.

/Verse 6. / For as the crackling of thorns under a pot, so is the laughter of the fools; this also is vanity.

/The verse says that the laughter of fools is like the crackling of thorns under a pot. /When thorns burn, they crackle unpredictably. /Crack crack crack. Crack crack. Crack. The thorns burn irregularly.

/When fools laugh before us, they are trying to deceive us. /We must not be deceived by fools’ laughter.

/Verse 7. /Surely oppression drives the wise into madness, and a bribe corrupts the heart.

/Greed is a sin. /There are many people who perish because of greed. /Bribes blur our vision. /Achan perished because of greed. /Gehazi perished because of greed. /Judas Iscariot perished because of greed. /We must not harbor greed. /Day by day, we must be thankful for the things that God has given to us.

/Third, be patient in everything and do good in today’s work. /Verses 8-10.

/Verse 8. /Better is the end of a thing than its beginning, and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.

/The verse says that the end of a thing is better than its beginning. /The end to something is more important than its beginning. /In the year 2002, Korea hosted the World Cup. /At the time, Guus Hiddink was the manager of the Korean national team.

/In a preliminary match, Korea lost 5:0. /However, during the World Cup, Korea made it to the semifinals. /Thus all the failures of the past were forgotten. /This is because the end was better than the beginning.

/The Apostle Paul had a beautiful end. /In 2 Timothy 4:7-8, /the Apostle Paul makes this confession. / “I have fought the good fight, /I have finished the race, /I have kept the faith. /Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, /which the Lord, the righteous judge, /will award to me on that Day, /and not only to me but also to all /who have loved his appearing.”

/I hope that we can make this confession at the end of our days. /As he said this, Paul also encouraged Timothy to be the one to receive this crown. /We must not begin in the Holy Spirit and end in the flesh.

/Even if we begin in the flesh, we need to end in the Holy Spirit. /That is why the end is better than the beginning. /Verse 8 also says, “The patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.” /We must become patient people.

/Verse 9. /Be not quick in your spirit to become angry, for anger lodges in the heart of fools.

/We believers must not be quick to anger. /There is a saying that if we eat too quickly, we will die. /Therefore we must not have angry hearts. /If we are quick in spirit, we tend to become angry.

/If believers are angry, we cannot fulfill God’s righteousness. /Therefore we must not have a quick spirit. /I hope that you hold a humble heart at all times. /Verse 10. /Say not, “Why were the former days better than these?” For it is not from wisdom that you ask this.

/The Israelites longed for the days of the past. /Whenever they were troubled along the path of life, they desired to return to Egypt. /Verse 10 says exactly this. /It says, “Why were the former days better than these?” /This means the days of the past were better.

/We must not look to our former days. /Please be believers who are thankful for today and are faithful to God.

/Fourth, wisdom and knowledge are more precious than money. /Verses 11-12. /Verse 11. /Wisdom is good with an inheritance, an advantage to those who see the sun.

/Wisdom here is the wisdom of serving God. /It is talking about spiritual wisdom. /Also, the inheritance mentioned in the verse is an inheritance that is eternal. /The wisdom of knowing God is an eternal inheritance.

/When the verse says “those who see the sun,” /it is referring to the people living in the world. /Fearing God /and living according to the word, which is God’s wisdom, is more precious than anything. /I hope that you all gain God’s wisdom and receive an eternal inheritance.

/Verse 12. /For the protection of wisdom is like the protection of money, and the advantage of knowledge is that wisdom preserves the life of him who has it.

/Wisdom is something that is protected. /Money is also protected. /The one who gains wisdom preserves his life. /Here, “wisdom” symbolizes Jesus, and it symbolizes the words of the Bible. /The Bible preserves life.

/Fifth, men cannot fix what God has done. /Verses 13-14.

/Verse 13. /Consider the work of God: who can make straight what he has made crooked?

/Man cannot make straight what God has made crooked. /We cannot make a single hair turn black or white. /When a white hair grows on our head, we have to dye it black. /Not long after, the white hair reappears. /Are we able to turn our hair black? No, we cannot.

/Verse 14. /In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider: God has made the one as well as the other, so that man may not find out anything that will be after him.

/God guides us with these two things. /They are the day of prosperity and the day of adversity. /We must be joyful in the day of prosperity. /On this day, we must give glory and thanks to God.

/In the day of adversity, we must grieve, repent, and think. /Through this, God makes it so that we cannot find out what will be after us. /If we know that we will prosper in the future, /we will be careless and we will not work.

/Also, if we know that there will be adversity in our future, /we will resent God and complain. /Through the day of prosperity and the day of adversity, God prevents us from knowing the future.

/Sixth, do not be overly righteous or overly wise. /Verses 15-18.

/Verse 15. /In my vain life I have seen everything. There is a righteous man who perishes in his righteousness, and there is a wicked man who prolongs his life in his evildoing.

/The Preacher says, “In my vain life I have seen everything.” /The righteous man perished. /The wicked man lived a long life. /The righteous man bragged about his good deeds, and this caused him to perish.

/When it says that the wicked man prolonged his life, it means that he too eventually dies. /Verse 16 talks about this.

/Verse 16. /Be not overly righteous, and do not make yourself too wise. Why should you destroy yourself?

/The verse tells us to not be overly righteous. /It means that we should not go beyond what the Bible says. /And if someone boasts about his righteous deeds, God will punish this person.

/Therefore we need to live according to the word of God alone. /What type of person is overly righteous? /We need to teach about remembering the Sabbath. /But some believers, to increase their popularity, say, “You can go to church in the morning and then go to work.” This is going too far.

/Normally, people who have greed prefer these types of preachers. /However, the preacher has gone beyond what the Bible says. /This kind of person brings destruction upon himself.

/Verse 17. /Be not overly wicked, neither be a fool. Why should you die before your time?

/We should not be overly wicked. /The verse is telling us to not go beyond the words of the Bible. /Therefore we must always be consistent with the Bible, go only to where God wants us to go, and obey.

/Verse 18. /It is good that you should take hold of this, and from that withhold not your hand, for the one who fears God shall come out from both of them.

/Fear of God is the most beautiful thing. /I hope that all of you fear God.

/Seventh, do not take to heart the curses of man. Verses 19-22. /When people curse you, do not be afraid.

/Verse 19. /Wisdom gives strength to the wise man more than ten rulers who are in a city.

/The verse says that wisdom to the wise man is better than ten rulers in a city. /The “rulers” in the verse are the influential people. /For example, when Daniel was taken captive to Babylon, /there were many influential people.

/However, Daniel was wiser than them, for he even interpreted the king’s dream. /Thus a person who fears God and has received God’s wisdom is better than the influential figures of the world.

/Verse 20. /Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins.

/There is not one righteous man on earth. /Romans 3:10 says, / “None is righteous, no, not one;” /We are all sinners.

/Verse 21. /Do not take to heart all the things that people say, lest you hear your servant cursing you.

/We should not take to heart the things that people say. /If someone curses us, do not pay attention to it. /Undeserved curses disappear into the air. /The Bible does well in explaining this. /Proverbs 26:2 says, / “Like a sparrow in its flitting, /like a swallow in its flying, /a curse that is causeless /does not alight.”

/A curse that is causeless flutters like a sparrow. /Sparrows make chirping sounds. We cannot understand what they are saying. /A person may curse us before God. /God does not listen to what this person says.

/It is also like a darting swallow. /Prayers must be conveyed to God, but if they dart away like a sparrow, they are hard to recognize. /Therefore we must not be afraid of the words people say. /Hebrews 13:6 says that / that we should not fear man.

/It says, “What can man do to me?” /I hope that you fear God alone. /I hope you go forward by relying on God alone.

/Verse 22. /Your heart knows that many times you yourself have cursed others.

/Do not take to heart the curses that people have said to you. /We also must not curse others. We must only bless others.

/Eighth, no one has mastered everything. /Verses 23-25.

/Verse 23. /All this I have tested by wisdom. I said, “I will be wise,” but it was far from me.

/No one has mastered everything. /That is why verse 25 says, / “I turned my heart to know /and to search out and to seek wisdom.” /But this caused the Preacher’s head to hurt. /He thought it was madness. /Thus there is no one who has mastered everything of this world.

/Ninth. /Those in whom God does not delight /will fall into the woman’s snares.

/Verse 26. / And I find something more bitter than death: the woman whose heart is snares and nets, and whose hands are fetters. He who pleases God escapes her, but the sinner is taken by her.

/The heart of a lewd woman is like a snare. /This woman holds nets in her heart. /She has handcuffs prepared. /She is one more bitter than death. /However, the one in whom God does not delight will fall into the woman’s traps. /He will fall into her nets.

/Eventually, this person will perish. /Revelation 17:1 says that /this woman is very beautiful, dressed in scarlet. /She wears scarlet clothing, /rides a scarlet beast, /and holds a golden cup in her hand. /The scarlet color stirs people up. This woman represents the culture of humanism.

/If we fall into this idea, we become obsessed with it as we are won over by it. /Proverbs 7:27 says, / “Her house is the way to Sheol, /going down /to the chambers of death.” /The prostitute covers her lips with lipstick /and seduces /with her beautiful make-up.

/If people fall for her, they die. /Proverbs 22:14, / “The mouth of forbidden women is a deep pit; /he with whom the LORD is angry /will fall into it.” /Those with whom the LORD is angry fall into the pit of the woman. /We must not fall into this pit.

/In order for us to not fall for the forbidden woman, we must flee in the way Joseph fled. / When a person is put into that atmosphere /and environment, /they unknowingly fall for the woman. /If this happens, the person becomes someone with whom God does not delight. /The person is abandoned by God.

/We must always pray so that we will not be abandoned by God. /It is difficult for us to defeat sin. /Because this is true, we need to make great efforts to pray to God who can defeat sin for us.

/Tenth. /Christ’s birth and man’s schemes. /Verses 27-29.
Verse 27. / Behold, this is what I found, says the Preacher, while adding one thing to another to find the scheme of things—

/The Preacher studied. /He studied to find new things. /What is the result of his realization? /He discovered that even with one thousand women, he could not realize anything. /However, he came to a realization through a man.

/Who is this man? It is Jesus Christ. /The Preacher encountered Jesus. /What kind of person is Jesus? /Hebrews 13:8 says that /Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today.

/James 1:17 says that /Jesus does not have a shifting shadow. /Hosea 6:3 says that /he is as sure as the coming of dawn. /Song of Solomon 8:6 says that /he dies to keep his covenant with us. /Song of Solomon 1:17 says /his love is unchanging.

/Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forevermore. /The Preacher came to realize this. / Beloved believers! /You must meet this person.

/Verse 29. / See, this alone I found, that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes.

/God made man upright, but people stumble because of their many schemes. /We must encounter Jesus like Solomon did. /We must be upright as we obey the will of God in our lives.

/This ends the 8th lecture on the book of Ecclesiastes. /Thank you.