



## Stop Squandering Your Life

Ecclesiastes 10:1-20

**Listen!** Does anyone have a \$100 bill that I could put through this shredder?

**Question:** Are you squandering some portion of your life.

Fifteen ways to squander your life. Foolishness:

- #1 ...spoils big things with just a few words or a few actions. (v 1)
- #2...directs a man's heart away from all aspects of wise living. (v 2)
- #3 ...demonstrates one's senselessness to even casual observers. (v 3)
- #4 ...abandons convictions in the face of challenges. (v 4)**
- #5 ...causes evil when fools rise to places of authority. (vv 5-7)
- #6 ...causes harm due to lack of caution and foresight. (vv 8, 9, 11)
- #7 ...causes undo exertion due to an unwillingness to "sharpen the ax." (v 10)**
- #8 ...lacks gracious words and results in being consumed. (v 12)**
- #9 ...causes foolish talking leading to wicked madness. (v 13)
- #10 ...causes volumes of words leading to useless speculation. (v 14)
- #11 ...causes wearing activity leading to disorientation. (v 15)
- #12 ...causes harm to the nation when found in the rulers. (vv 16, 17)**
- #13 ...causes laziness that leads to the deterioration of property. (v 18)**
- #14 ...causes one to believe that life is fixed with food, wine, and money. (v 19)
- #15 ...causes critical and careless words against authorities. (v 20)

**Solomon's Point:** The outcome of foolishness...is a squandered life. A little foolishness leads to a little squandering and a lot of foolishness leads to a lot of squandering.

**Our Application:** What did you hear today about the various kinds of foolishness that squanders life that the Spirit of God convicted you about? What will you do? When? Who will you tell? \_\_\_\_\_

# “Walking Papers”

Practical helps for walking the Christian walk each day this week.

**Solomon’s Point:** The outcome of foolishness...is a squandered life. A little foolishness leads to a little squandering and a lot of foolishness leads to a lot of squandering.

- **Today:** Do you have ways that you are abandoning convictions in the face of pressure? What would you be able to do in order to stop?
- **Monday:** List any ways in your life that you need to “sharpen the ax.”
- **Tuesday:** How have your words not been gracious toward your family members?
- **Wednesday:** Are there ways in which you are eating for drunkenness and not for strength?
- **Thursday:** Are there areas in which you are lazy and are causing deterioration?
- **Friday:** How can you make changes to stop squandering your time or money or relationships?
- **Saturday:** Are there ways in which you are spoiling relationships with your words?

# “Companionship Papers”

Dialogue questions for helping each other in the Christian walk this week.

## GETTING STARTED:

- Have you seen a life squandered through foolishness? What did it look like?
- In what ways have you seen a life wearied through failure to sharpen the saw?

## LOOK AT THE TEXT:

- Verse 1: Can you think of any Biblical examples of someone spoiling things with just a few words or a few actions?
- Verse 4: What does it mean that “composure allays great offenses?” How do you get the kind of composure that allays great offenses?
- Verses 5-7: How do fools end up ruling and slaves end up riding horses?
- Verse 12: How do the words of a wise man and the words of a fool differ?
- Verse 15: How would you describe the “toil of a fool?”
- Verses 16, 17: What is the foundational difference between a ruler who “eats for drunkenness” and a ruler who “eats for strength?” In other words, what are the underlying realities that fuel these two different purposes for eating?
- Verse 20: How are our critical words made known to those we are criticizing?

**LIVE DIFFERENTLY**—you can also use questions from the Walking Papers above:

- In what ways in your life do you need to “sharpen the saw?”
- In what ways in your life do you need to make your words more gracious—with everyone but especially with your family?