

A good name is better than a good ointment, And the day of one's death is better than the day of one's birth. It is better to go to a house of mourning Than to go to a house of feasting, Because that is the end of every man, And the living takes it to heart. Sorrow is better than laughter, For when a face is sad a heart may be happy. The mind of the wise is in the house of mourning, While the mind of fools is in the house of pleasure.

It is better to listen to the rebuke of a wise man Than for one to listen to the song of fools. For as the crackling of thorn bushes under a pot, So is the laughter of the fool; And this too is hebel. For oppression makes a wise man mad, And a bribe corrupts the heart. The end of a matter is better than its beginning; Patience of spirit is better than haughtiness of spirit. Do not be eager in your heart to be angry, For anger resides in the bosom of fools.

Do not say, "Why is it that the former days were better than these?" For it is not from wisdom that you ask about this. Wisdom along with an inheritance is good And an advantage to those who see the sun. For wisdom is protection just as money is protection, But the advantage of knowledge is that wisdom preserves the lives of its possessors. Consider the work of God, For who is able to straighten what He has bent?

## **Main Point**

While you are under the sun, you will deepen your joy if you will reckon with the reality of death, live with the end in mind, and continually consider the good works of God.

# **Deliberating with Death?**

**Ecclesiastes 7:4** 

The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning.

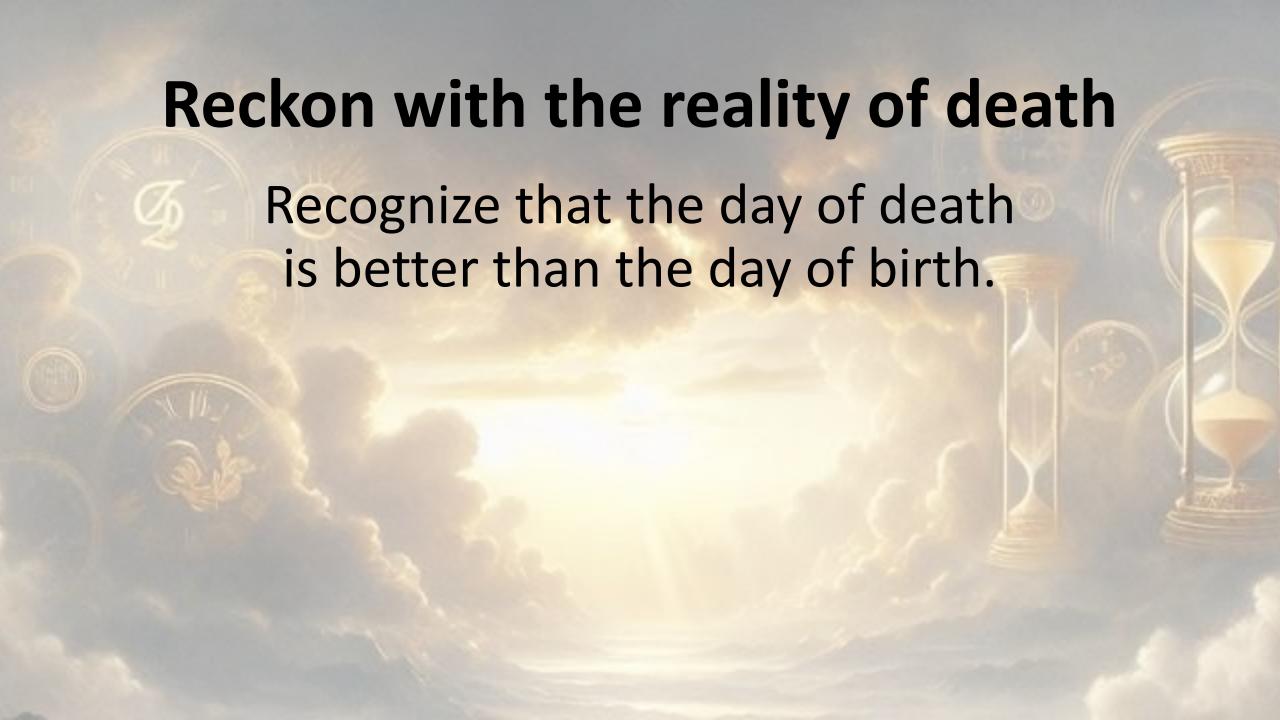
## **Deliberating with Death?**

**Ecclesiastes 7:4** 

The heart of the wise dwells with death.

# Deepen Your Joy by Deliberating with Death

Reckon with the reality of death.



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# Better in what way?

The birth room is filled with naive expectations while the death room is filled with sober realizations.

One man reckons with death and is reminded that there is a day of reckoning coming soon.

Another man reckons he has a long life ahead and lives with reckless abandon.

Who will have the good name in the end?



Recognize that the day of death is better than the day of birth.

Grant that the house of mourning is better than the house of feasting.

It is better to go to a house of mourning
Than to go to a house of feasting,
Because that is the end of every man,
And the living takes it to heart.

# It is better to go to a house of mourning Than to go to a house of feasting,

## It is better to go to a house of mourning

# Than to go to a house of drinking,

# It is better to go to a funeral home Than to go to a party house,

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Than to go to the party house,
Because that is the end of every man,
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It is better to go to the funeral home Than to go to the party house,

# Because that is the end of every man,

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It is better to go to the funeral home Than to go to the party house,

Funeral homes are instruction halls for sobriety. Party houses provide the object lessons.





Recognize that the day of death is better than the day of birth.

Grant that the house of mourning is better than the house of feasting.

See that sorrow is better than laughter.

Sorrow is better than laughter,
For when a face is sad a heart may be happy.

# **Sorrow** is better than **laughter**, For when a face is sad a heart may be happy.

# Sorrow is better than laughter,

For when a face is sad a heart may be happy.

# Sorrow is better suited to sober a man than the simplicity of silly jesting.

Sorrow is better than laughter,

# For by sadness of face a heart is made happy.

How is a heart made happy by a sad face?

Seeing sadness in the face of one grieving forces us to reckon with the realities of death and persuades us to more deeply appreciate the portion we've been given.

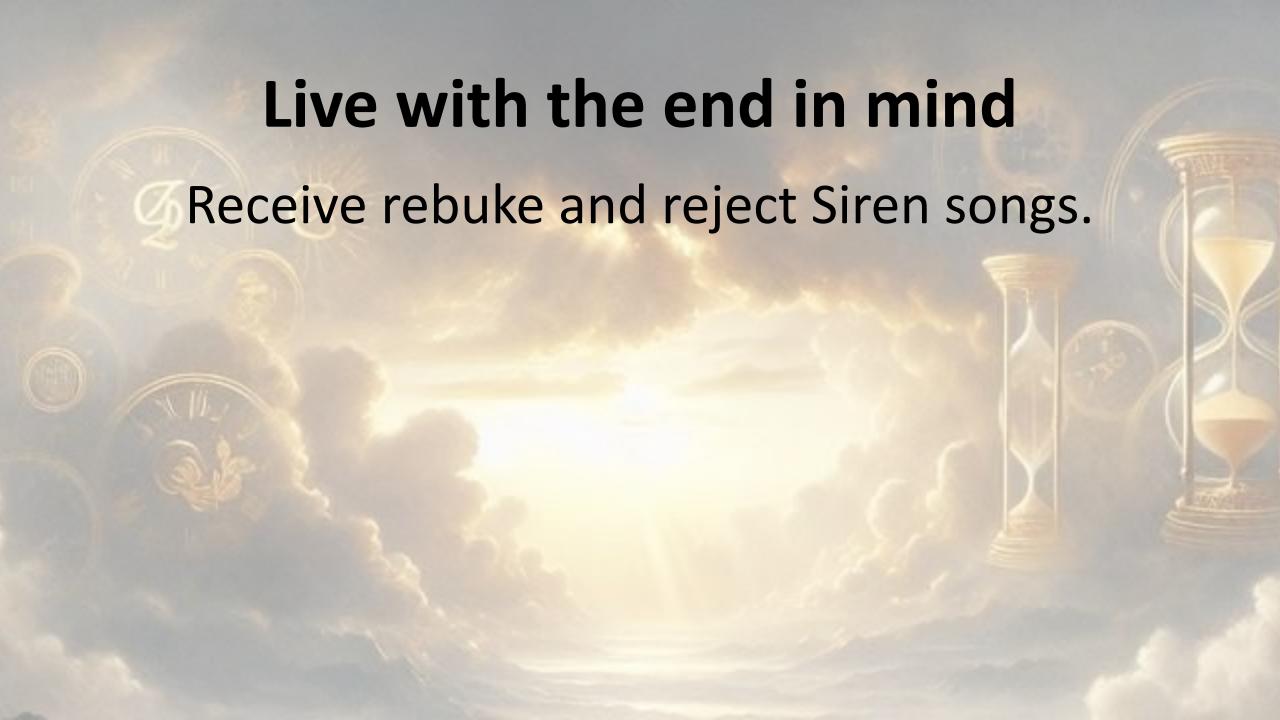
Death properly deliberated produces joy more deeply appreciated.

The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning. While the heart of fools is in the house of pleasure.

# Deepen Your Joy by Deliberating with Death

Reckon with the reality of death.

Live with the end in mind.



It is better to listen to the rebuke of a wise man Than for one to listen to the song of fools. For as the crackling of thorn bushes under a pot, So is the laughter of the fool; And this too is hebel.

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It is better to listen to the rebuke of a wise man
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# Ecclesiastes 7:5-6 It is better to listen to the rebuke of a wise man Than for one to listen to the song of fools.

For as the crackling of thorn bushes under a pot, So is the laughter of the fool; And this too is *hebel*.

The wise man rebukes to spare his friend the consequences of his folly, while fools wave off warnings with jokes and singing that distract from the danger ahead.



Receive rebuke and reject Siren songs.

Pursue patience and avoid prideful presumption.

The end of a matter is better than its beginning;
Patience of spirit is better than haughtiness of spirit.

Do not be eager in your heart to be angry,
For anger resides in the bosom of fools.

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Don't provoke yourself to anger by pridefully presuming that you know how things will turn out. Humble yourself and patiently wait for God's outcome.

### A timely word of wisdom...

**Ecclesiastes 7:10** 

Do not say,

"Why is it that the former days were better than these?" For it is not from wisdom that you ask about this.



Receive rebuke and reject Siren songs.

Pursue patience and avoid prideful presumption.

Know that an inheritance awaits you.

Wisdom along with an inheritance is good
And an advantage to those who see the sun.
For wisdom is protection just as money is protection,
But the advantage of knowledge is that wisdom
preserves the lives of its possessors.

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### Ecclesiastes 7:11-12 Wisdom along with an inheritance is good

And an advantage to those who see the sun.

For wisdom is protection just as money is protection,
But the advantage of knowledge is that wisdom
preserves the lives of its possessors.

#### **Ephesians 1:11**

In Christ we have obtained an inheritance.

An inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away. (1 Peter 1:4)

Under the sun, the heart of a man is encouraged by the security of an estate.

In a world of death, our joy is deepened in the knowledge that we have an imperishable, undefiled, and unending inheritance awaiting us.

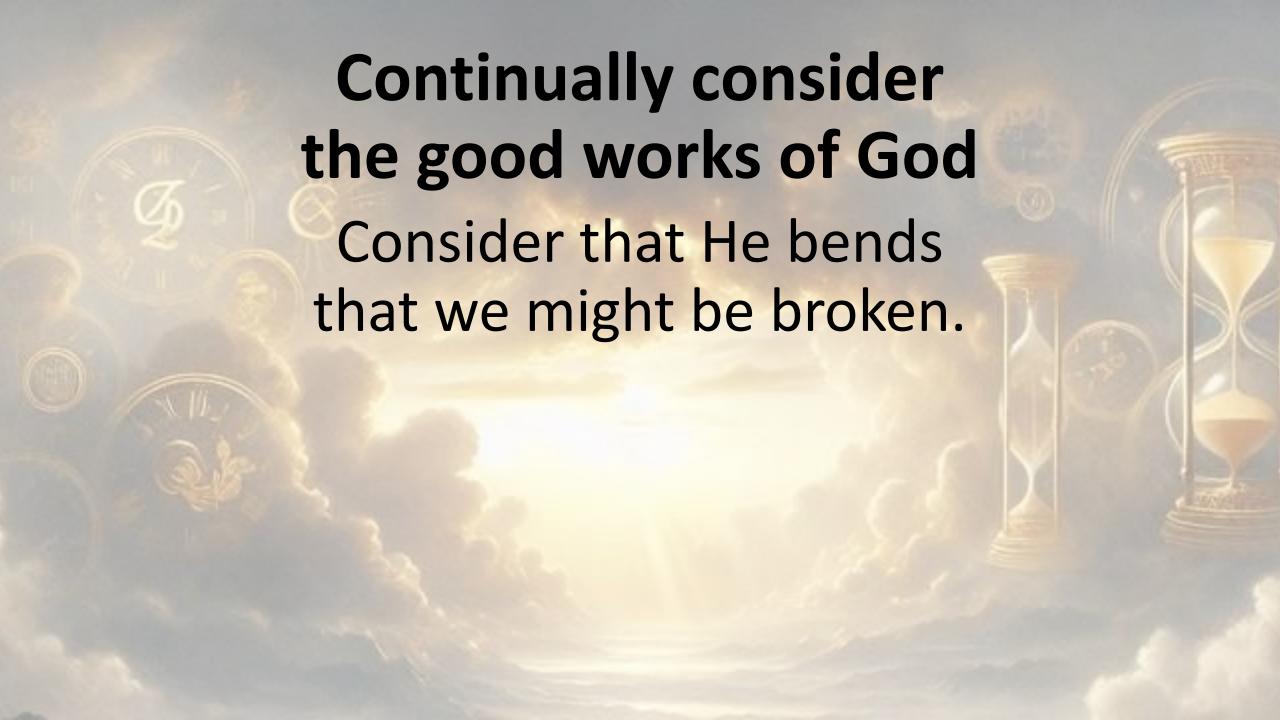
# Deepen Your Joy by Deliberating with Death

Reckon with the reality of death.

Live with the end in mind.

Continually consider the good works of God.

### Ecclesiastes 7:13 Consider the work of God.



### Ecclesiastes 7:13 Consider the work of God,

For who is able to straighten what He has bent?

Consider the work of God,

### For who is able to straighten what He has bent?

What has the Lord bent?

Why has he bent it?

Psalm 34:18

The LORD is near to the brokenhearted And saves those who are crushed in spirit.

# When the Lord breaks you, it is He who will heal you.

#### Mark 2:17

"It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick;

I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners."



Consider that He bends that we might be broken.

Remember that He died that we might live.

#### 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10

For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him.

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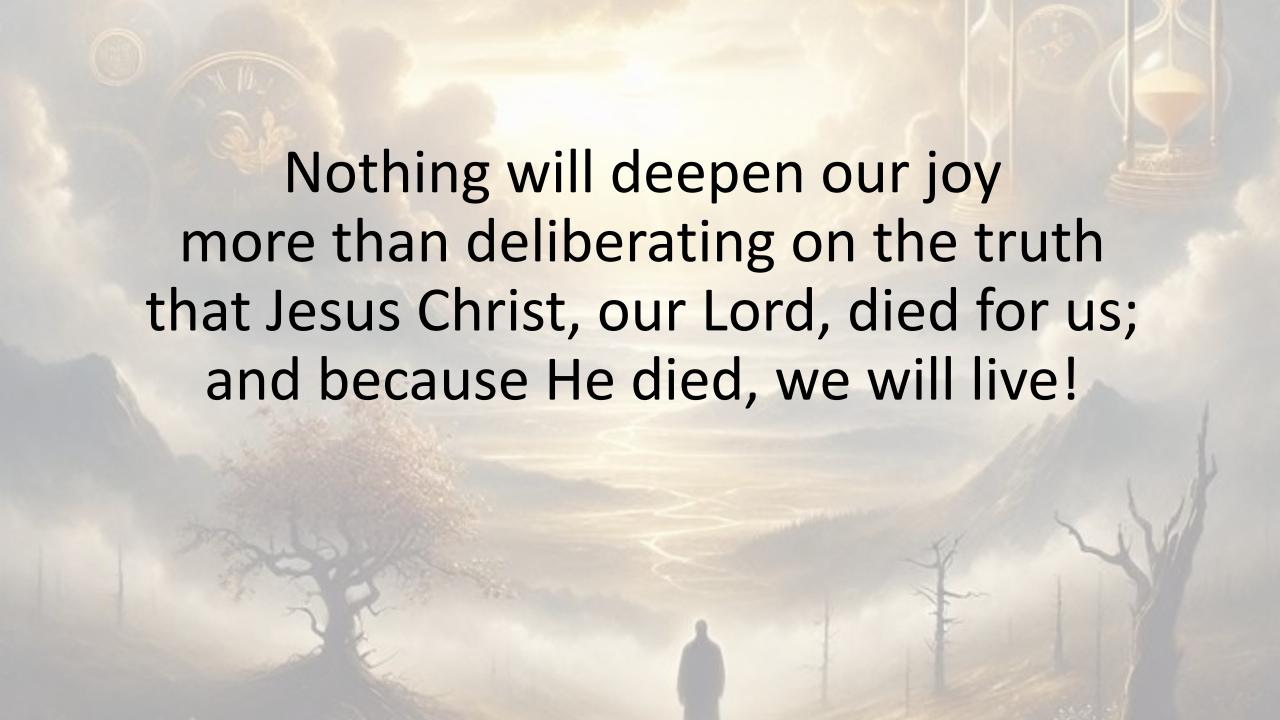
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### **Concluding Questions:**

Have you come to terms with the reality of your death?

Are you living with your end in mind?

Are you deliberating on the death of Christ for you?