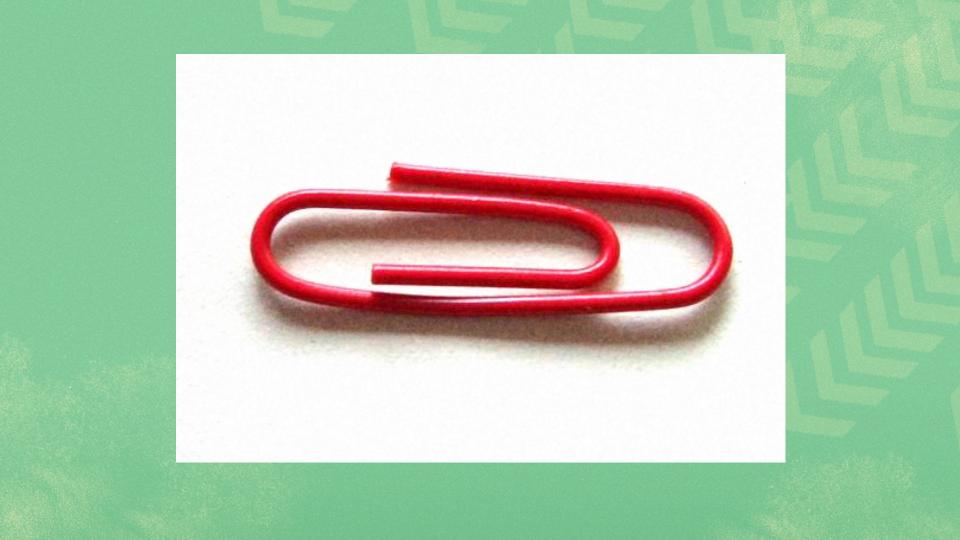


Steve Durand- "The Better Life" - Ecclesiastes 7



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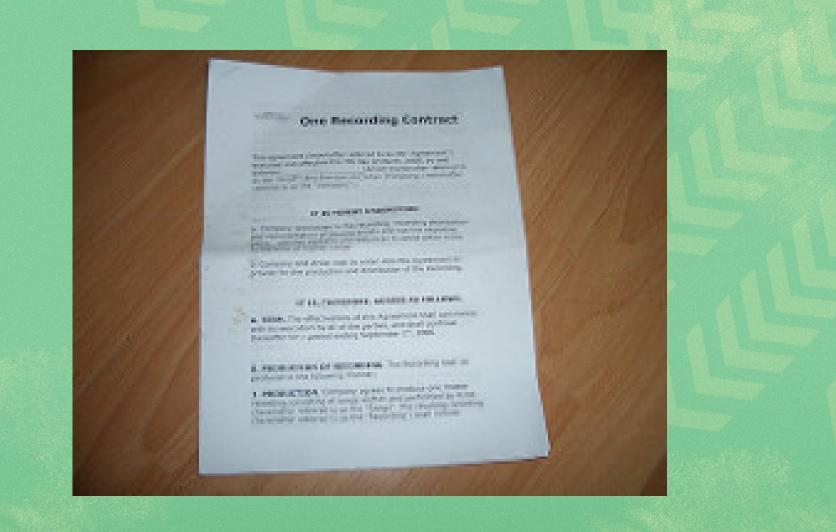


























Ecclesiastes 6:12a

"For who knows what is **GOOD** for a person in life, during the few and meaningless days they pass through like a shadow?" (NIV)

A good name is better than fine perfume, and the day of death better than the day of birth. (NIV)

It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting, for death is the destiny of everyone; the living should take this to heart. Frustration is better than laughter, because a sad face is good for the heart. (NIV)

The end of a matter is better than its beginning, and patience is better than pride. (NIV)



Do not say, "Why were the old days better than these?" For it is not wise to ask such questions. (NIV)

Showcase 1

Day of death

House of mourning

Frustration

Sadness

The end

Patience

Showcase 2

Fine perfume

Birthdays

House of feasting

Laughter

Beginnings

Pride

True wisdom protects and preserves our lives.

Wisdom, like an inheritance, is a good thing and benefits those who see the sun. Wisdom is a shelter as money is a shelter, but the advantage of knowledge is this: Wisdom preserves those who have it. (NIV)

Extortion turns a wise person into a fool, and a bribe corrupts the heart. (NIV)

Do not be quickly provoked in your spirit, for anger resides in the lap of fools. (NIV)

It is better to heed the rebuke of a wise person than to listen to the song of fools. (NIV)

I find more bitter than death the woman who is a snare, whose heart is a trap and whose hands are chains. The man who pleases God will escape her, but the sinner she will ensnare. (NIV)

True wisdom is a source of strength

Wisdom makes one wise person more powerful than ten rulers in a city. (NIV)

Do not pay attention to every word people say, or you may hear your servant cursing you—for you know in your heart that many times you yourself have cursed others. (NIV)

True wisdom points us toward the answer to our greatest need

Ecclesiastes 7:20

Indeed, there is no one on earth who is righteous, no one who does what is right and never sins. (NIV)

Ecclesiastes 7:29

This only have I found: God created mankind upright, but they have gone in search of many schemes. (NIV)

Ecclesiastes 7:14-18

When times are good, be happy; but when times are bad, consider this: God has made the one as well as the other. Therefore, no one can discover anything about their future.

In this meaningless life of mine I have seen both of these: the righteous perishing in their righteousness, and the wicked living long in their wickedness. Do not be overrighteous, neither be overwise why destroy yourself?

Do not be overwicked, and do not be a fool—why die before your time? It is good to grasp the one and not let go of the other. Whoever fears God will avoid all extremes. (NIV)





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