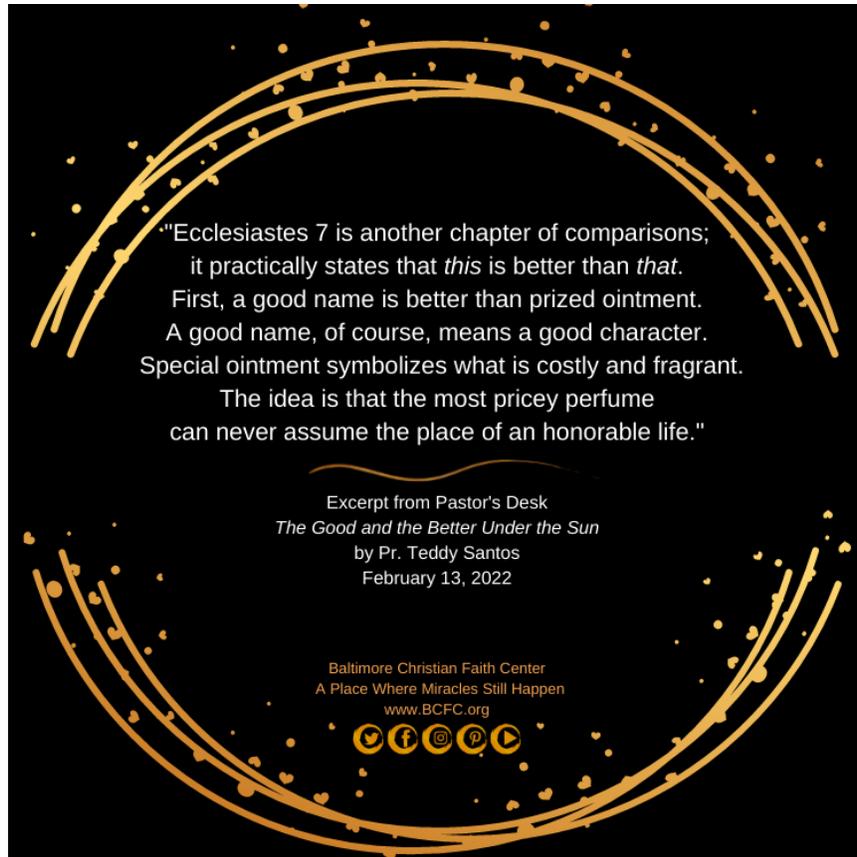


The Good and the Better Under the Sun

Pastor's Desk – February 13, 2022



Ecc 7:1 *"A good name is better than precious ointment, And the day of death than the day of one's birth."*

The end of chapter 6 stood a bit of a sour note, noting that man cannot decide what is best for him under the sun. But Solomon does have views about some good things and others that are better. That is the topic in chapter 7. The words "good" and "better" together emerge here more times than in any other chapter in the Old Testament.

Ecclesiastes 7 is another chapter of comparisons; it practically states that *this* is better than *that*. First, a good name is better than prized ointment. A good name, of course, means a good character. Special ointment symbolizes what is costly and fragrant. The idea is that the most pricey perfume can never assume the place of an honorable life.

The Preacher voices that the day of death is better than one's birth. This is one of his statements that can leave one guessing. Did he mean this as a general hypothesis, or was he directing it only to a man with a good name? When you apply this statement to steadfast believers, the observation is quite accurate. But it is undoubtedly not the case of those who perish with sins unconfessed and unforgiven.

Solomon's thought implies that his message reflects the way it should be, and everyone who believes in God's Word can be ensured that the conclusion of their lives will be blessed. A better ending to life mainly depends on the choices one makes in life. **Deuteronomy 30:19** puts it perfectly: "I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;" We choose The Lord!

At His service
Pr. Teddy Santos