

Series: “Chasing the Wind”, Lesson #4

THE FATE of FOOLS

We are presently studying nine lessons taken from a phrase used throughout the first six chapters of Book of Ecclesiastes. The phrase is “Chasing the Wind” that is used in Eccl.2: 17.

As you read through our lesson text (Eccl. 2:12-17) you will notice two words that are contrasted in every verse but the last. These two words are fool or (sikeluth) [folly] and wise or (chakemah) [wisdom].

Eccl. 2:12	wisdom vs. folly
Eccl. 2:13	wisdom vs. folly
Eccl. 2:14	wise vs. fool
Eccl. 2:15	fool vs. wise
Eccl. 2:16	wise vs. fool

Today’s lesson title comes from Solomon’s statement regarding the FATE of both the fool and the wise.

What did Solomon say was their common fate? _____(2:16 / muth).

This lesson will study FIVE aspects of the Fate of Fools.

We will study our lesson text by the following five homiletical points.

Eccl. 2:12	The fickled life
Eccl. 2:13	The folly of life
Eccl. 2:14-15	The fate of life
Eccl. 2:16	The forgotten life
Eccl. 2:17	The futile life

1. The Hebrew word for fate is (miqereh). Miqereh has the same idea as in English of an accident or chance.

In the Bible, fate is associated with cosmos diabolicus thinking embraced by pagan religion (1 Sam.6: 1-9/ Philistines).

The biblical view is divine viewpoint thinking of faith (Gen.24: 12; 50:19-21). “The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord.” (Prov.16: 33)

2. The Greek Septuagint used aphron for the word for fool.

A- phron has the alpha privative with the Greek word (phren). It refers to being without common sense or without spiritual reasoning. It refers to the inability to see or reason through something that is very basic and simple to understand (Rom.2: 17-29; Gal.2: 16; 5:16).

It was used by Jesus against the religious Pharisees and legalism: “Now you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and of the platter; but inside of you, you are full of robbery and wickedness. You foolish ones, did not He who made the outside make the inside also? But give that which is within as charity, and then all things are clean for you.” (Luke 11:39-4; Mark 7:20-23)

3. On another occasion, Jesus used aphron in a parable to teach that it is better to be POOR WITH GOD THAN RICH FROM GREED (Luke 12:13-21).

- **Legal dispute (DI#4) verses Spiritual dispute (divine agency):** “My kingdom is not of this world.” (John 18:36)
- **Lesson to learn:** Priorities, values, goals in life must be based on the word of God – “Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness.” (Matt.6:33) “Beware of every form of greed.”
- **Lesson to live:** “If you are unhappy in your present status as a spiritual advancing believer, you will probably not be happy with your future status regardless of what you possess.”
- **“Since you will die on God’s table why not live on it.”**

4. Paul used aphron to address senseless questions of believers regarding basic bible doctrines like the resurrection (1 Cor.15: 35-38).

- Paul issued a warning to the believing side of the faith cycle (Heb.4: 2).
- Paul issued a warning for the importance of applying spiritual common sense to the doctrine of the resurrection (15:35, 38) God’s in charge of it.
- Paul issued a warning that doubting basic doctrines because we do not understand some technical part of process is foolish. For example he explained how life comes out of death –“How foolish! What you sow doe not come to life unless it dies.” (15:36)

5. Paul used aphron to warn spiritual advancing believer about the importance of applying categorical bible doctrine through the faith cycle to every day human experiences (Eph.5: 15-17).

- **Walk** (Eph.5:17) Be wise not unwise
- **Watch** (Eph.5:18) Time because the days are evil
- **Will of God** (Eph.5: 19) Foolishness is not understanding the will of God.

6. Finally, Paul used aphron to encourage spiritual advancing believers.

Their consistent daily walk with the Lord, in the world silenced (phimoo / p.a.infin) [muzzle the mouth] the foolishness of the world (1 Pet.2: 13-17).

- **Submit** (1 Pet.2:13-14) Lord’s sake
- **Silence** (1 Pet.2:15) God’s will
- **Servants of God** (1 Pet.2:16-17) Reverence God

“For it is God’s will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men.” (2:15)

**“So I hatred life, because the work that is done under the sun was grievous to me.
All of it is meaningless, a CHASING AFTER THE WIND.” (Eccl. 2:17, NIV)**

Solomon’s advice: Life can be difficult with God. But it will be virtually impossible without Him.