

Hardship Is Good for Me

Ecclesiastes 7:8-10

I. Patience brings a Better End (8)

A) Hardship Is Never Purposeless

B) Endurance Is Enabled by Hope

II. Anger Reveals a Fool (9)

A) Circumstances Reveal the Person

B) Impatience Disables Wisdom

III. The “Good Old Days” Miss the Point (10)

A) What We Long for...

B) Reveals What We Are

⁸ The end of a thing is better than its beginning; The patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit. ⁹ Do not hasten in your spirit to be angry, For anger rests in the bosom of fools. ¹⁰ Do not say, "Why were the former days better than these?" For you do not inquire wisely concerning this. NKJV

Small Group Questions

1.) What are some examples of when your choice to stay in a difficult situation, or run away from it, resulted in important outcomes? Are there examples of this in the Bible?

2.) Each of us have various things which are more likely to produce an angry response. What are some of these things? What can we be doing to keep ourselves from going this way?

3.) Why is it that “The good old days” are so attractive? Why is it dangerous for believers to live in a way which longs for the past?