

A GOOD NAME

PROVERBS 22:1; ECCLESIASTES 7

Text: Proverbs 22:1, Ecclesiastes 7:1

Proverbs 22:1

¹ A *good* name *is* rather to be chosen than great riches, *and* loving favour rather than silver and gold.

Ecclesiastes 7:1

¹ A good name *is* better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth.

Introduction:

What do you think of when you here the names Adolph Hitler or Joseph Stalin or Saddam Hussein (evil dictators)

What about the name Charles Manson (Brainwashing killer)

What about Timothy McVeigh (OKC bomber)

What about Osama Bin Laden (Terrorist)

What about Judas (Betrayer)

Saul's name was changed not long after he entered the ministry. The name Paul is no better than the name

Saul, but the reputation that goes with that name. People no longer name their kids Judas because of the reputation of that name.

We rarely hear the name Adolph because of the reputation that goes with that name. I read of a TV special where they were interviewing members of the Hitler family, many now live in the U.S. but they have changed their name and very few people ever knew who they were.

They didn't commit the crimes that Adolph Hitler committed, but that name has a negative stigmatism attached to it.

Read the text verses.

This verse here in Ecclesiastes we have the answer to the question found in chapter 6:12.

Ecclesiastes 6:12

¹² For who knoweth what *is* good for man in *this* life, all the days of his vain life which he spendeth as a shadow? for who can tell a man what shall be after him under the sun?

We should strive to have a good name.

Notice

1. WORTH OF A GOOD NAME

Proverbs 22:1

¹ A *good* name *is* rather to be chosen than great riches, *and* loving favour rather than silver and gold.

Ecclesiastes 7:1

¹ A good name *is* better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth.

A. A good name is better than the costliest items this world has to offer.

1. Great riches

Today's gold price is \$1621.67 per ounce or \$25946.72 per pound.

Today's silver price is \$31.29 per ounce or \$500.64 per pound.

2. Precious ointment

We're not certain what this ointment was but we do read of a precious ointment that was used in the New Testament.

John 12:1-5

¹ Then Jesus six days before the passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was which had been dead, whom he raised from the dead. ² There they made him a supper; and Martha served: but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with him. ³ Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and

anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment. ⁴ Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's *son*, which should betray him, ⁵ Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?

What was the value of this ointment? Well according to Judas it was worth 300 pence.

What is the value of 300 pence? Again looking in the New Testament notice:

Matthew 20:1-14

¹ For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man *that is* an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard. ² And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ And said unto them; Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you. And they went their way. ⁵ Again he went out about the sixth and ninth hour, and did likewise. ⁶ And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle? ⁷ They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, *that* shall ye receive. ⁸ So when even was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call the labourers, and give them *their* hire, beginning from the last unto the first. ⁹ And when they came that *were hired* about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny. ¹⁰ But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny. ¹¹ And when they had received *it*, they murmured against the goodman of the house, ¹² Saying, These last have wrought *but* one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day. ¹³ But he answered one of them, and said, Friend,

I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny? ¹⁴
Take *that* thine *is*, and go thy way: I will give unto this last, even
as unto thee.

A penny or pence was a day's wage.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau in 2010 the
medium household income was \$49,445.

That breaks down to \$950.87 per week or \$190.17 per
day.

So 300 days of wages would compute to \$57052.20.

Quiet valuable – a “good name”

2. WAYS OUR NAME IS CHOSEN

A. Attitude

1. Rules
2. Authority

B. Actions

1. Actions speak louder than words

C. Associations

1. Birds of a feather flock together.

D. Appearance/Accessories

1. Our dress

E. Accents

1. The words that come from our mouth will reflect what is in our heart.

3. WAYS TO OBTAIN A GOOD NAME

A. Consider the end (v 8)

Ecclesiastes 7:8

⁸ Better *is* the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: *and* the patient in spirit *is* better than the proud in spirit.

B. Consider the work of God (v. 13)

Ecclesiastes 7:13

¹³ Consider the work of God: for who can make *that* straight, which he hath made crooked?

C. Consider God's presence (v. 18)

Ecclesiastes 7:18

¹⁸ *It is* good that thou shouldest take hold of this; yea, also from this withdraw not thine hand: for he that feareth God shall come forth of them all.

Close:

What is a good name? It's not the name that the builders of Babel desired for themselves.

Genesis 11:1-4

¹ And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech. ² And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there. ³ And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. ⁴ And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top *may reach* unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.

It's not the name that Absalom sought.

2 Samuel 18:18

¹⁸ Now Absalom in his lifetime had taken and reared up for himself a pillar, which *is* in the king's dale: for he said, I have no son to keep my name in remembrance: and he called the pillar after his own name: and it is called unto this day, Absalom's place.

So different is God's standard from man's.

May our name be such that brings honor to our Father and not ourselves.