

Companionships

STUDY FROM ECCLESIASTES
ECCLESIASTES 4:8-12
SCRIPTURE READING: LUKE 12:13-21

Ecclesiastes 4:8

- “There is one alone, without companion: He has neither son nor brother. Yet there is no end to all his labors. Nor is his eye satisfied with riches. [But he never asks,] *‘For whom do I toil and deprive myself of good?’* This also is vanity and a grave misfortune.”

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

- Our companions (associations) influence our behavior
 - Ecclesiastes 7:3-6
 - ✦ “As the crackling of thorns under a pot [in a fire], so is the laughter of the fool ... vanity.”

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

- Can snare us in deceit, cause misery and pain
 - Ecclesiastes 7:23-26
 - Proverbs 16:27-30, Proverbs 17:9
 - 1 Corinthians 15:33
 - 1 Kings 12:8-9
 - ✦ Ecclesiastes 10:16-19
 - ✦ Ecclesiastes 10:1 (Ecclesiastes 11:9-10, Proverbs 22:24-25; 23:19-21)

Virtuous Friendships Yield Benefits

- Sharing Our Load
 - Ecclesiastes 4:9-10; 2 Corinthians 6:14

2 Corinthians 6:14



“Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship [in common] has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Beelial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?”
— 2 Corinthians 6:14-15

http://www.history.org/Foundation/journal/Spring08/open_slideshow/images/8.jpg

Virtuous Friendships Yield Benefits

- Support
 - Ecclesiastes 4:10; Galatians 6:1-2
- Compassion
 - Ecclesiastes 4:11; Proverbs 18:1
 - ✦ 1 Kings 19 (Elijah)
 - ✦ Proverbs 18:24; 17:17
 - Ruth 1:16-17; 1 Samuel 20:41-42
 - 1 John 4:7-11; James 5:16
- Strength
 - Ecclesiastes 4:12; Proverbs 27:17

Marriage

- Ecclesiastes 9:9
 - “See life [*live joyfully* – *NKJV*] with the wife whom you love
 - Ecclesiastes 9:4-8
 - ✦ Enjoy the good God has provided, and do so with wisdom
 - ✦ Proverbs 18:22; (Proverbs 18:19, 27:15-16, 25:24, 21:19, 9)
 - Nabal and Abigail
 - ✦ 1 Samuel 25:3ff (25:25)
 - ✦ Proverbs 12:4 (Proverbs 31:10-31); 1 Timothy 3:11

Jesus

- John 15:12-15
 - Laid down his life for his friends (disciples)
 - ✦ 1 John 4:15-17 – By his love, “we may have boldness in the day of judgment.”
 - ✦ 1 John. 5:18-20
 - Galatians 3:26-27