

The Good 'Ole Days (Eccl. 7:10)

Do not say, "Why were the former days better than these?" For you do not inquire wisely concerning this... In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider (Eccl. 7:10, 14). Each year will have its "ups and downs"—2014 did and 2015 will. When we compare the past to the present and complain about "how bad things have gotten and how good it used to be," what does that accomplish?

When days are good, *be joyful*. Seasons of laughter and peace ought to remind us that every good gift is from God (Eccl. 3:4, 8; James 1:17). If you are not a Christian, your good days will end at death. Learn the fear of the Lord and find *the fullness of joy* He offers (Psalms 16:11; 115:11).

When days are bad (adversity), Solomon says to *consider*. Don't complain but learn from the problem, notice that sin is often the source of problems, and seek the solution Jesus offers in the gospel (Acts 2:37-38). He will not make all problems disappear, but without sin (drunkenness, revenge, or lying) causing constant chaos, your list of problems will quickly shrink! By faith, repent and be baptized. Thus saved by Christ, begin the newness of life available only in Him.