

# The Happiness Code

Week 15 – Living with Bad Civil Government

Ecclesiastes 10:1-20



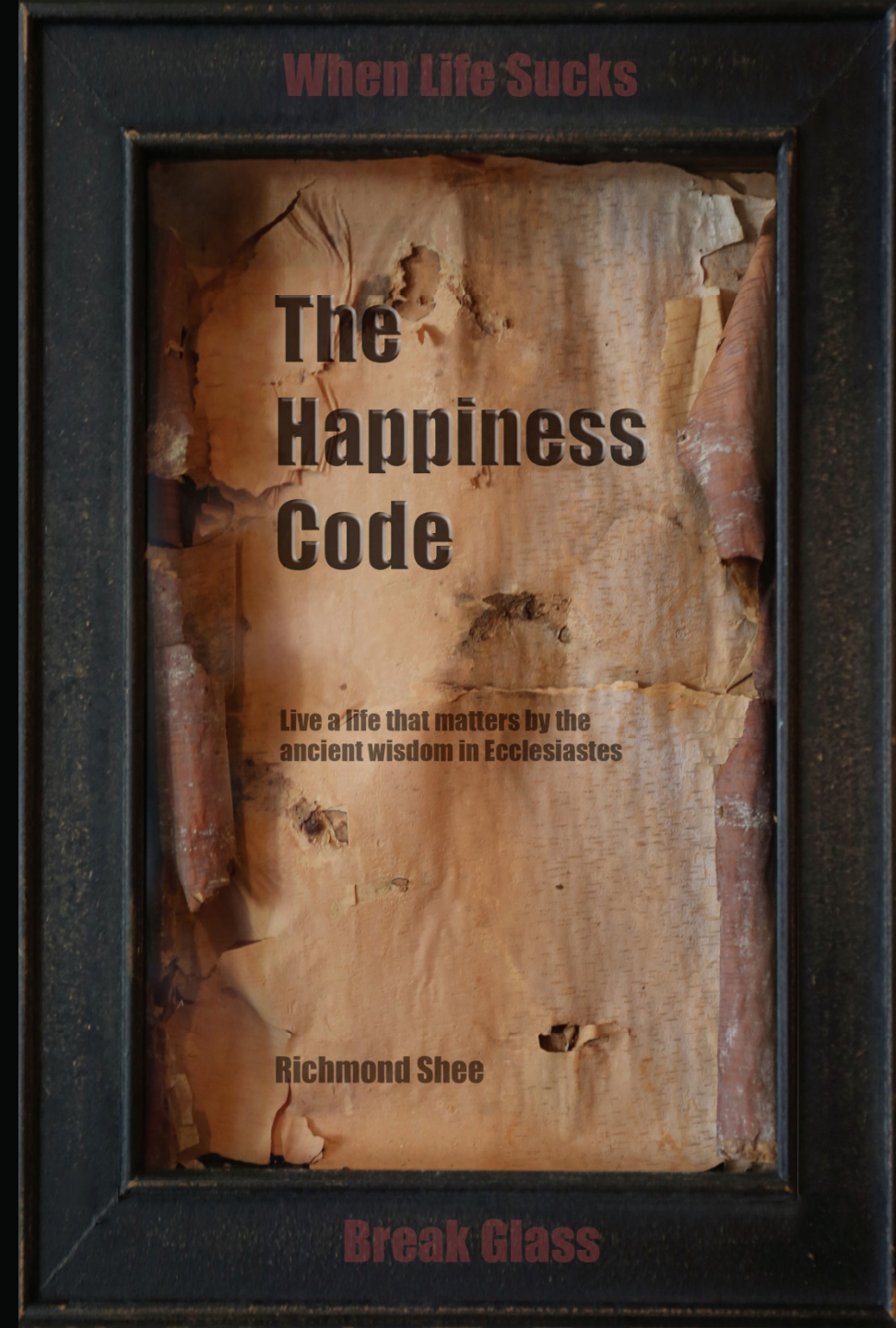
## Week #15: Level Set

**“Our leadership is stupid, these are stupid people. We are led by very, very stupid people.”**

-- Donald Trump on the U.S. government during the presidential campaign.

**“Government is not the solution to our problem. Government is the problem.”**

-- President Ronald Reagan



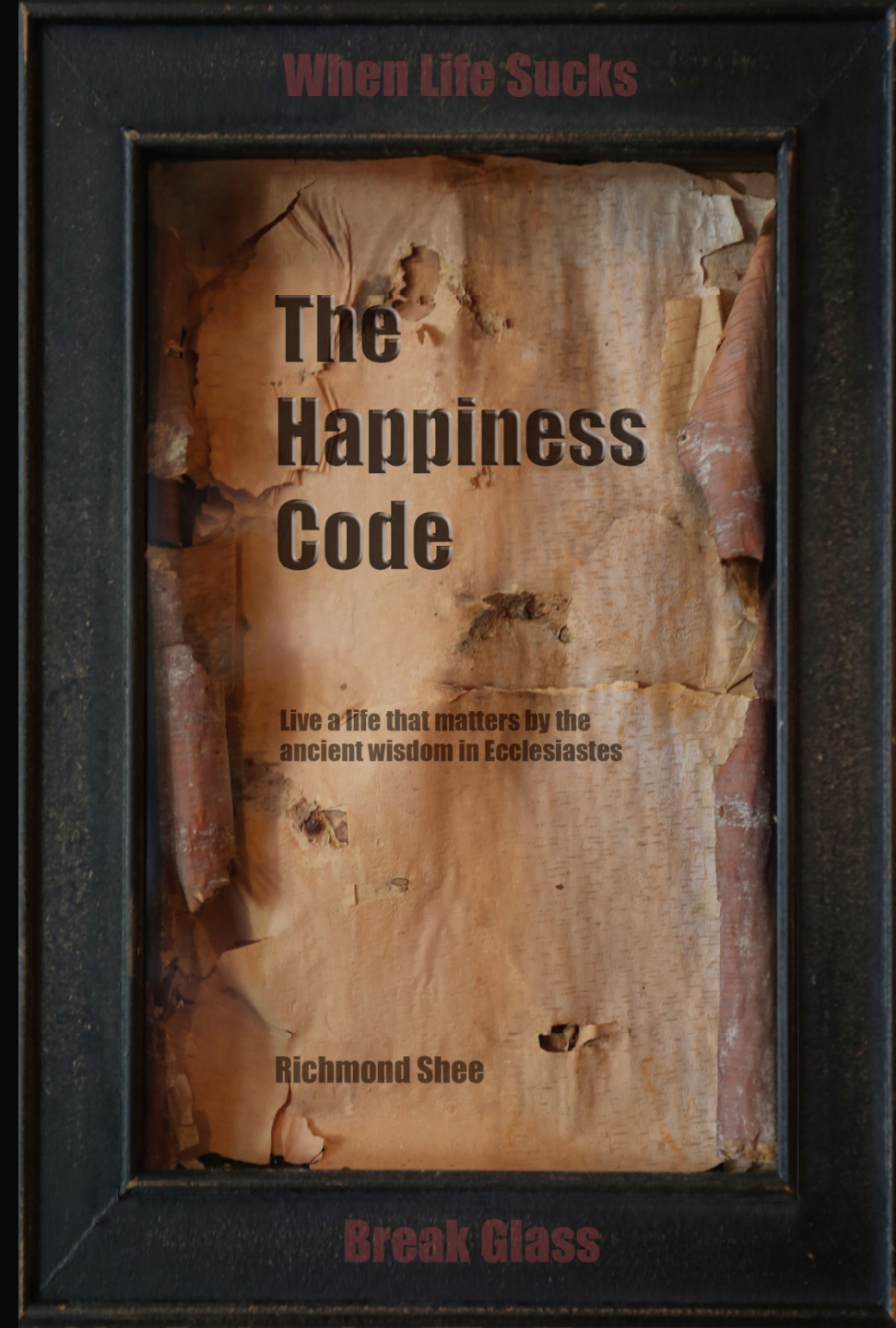


# Week #15: Level Set

## Living with Bad Civil Government

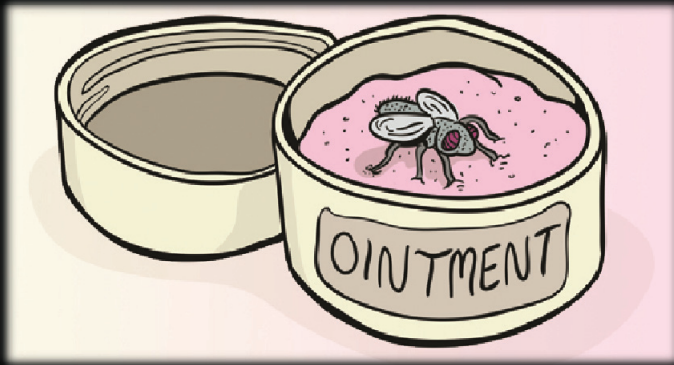
The counsels of wisdom that help the righteous cope with bad civil government:

- Guard against the folly of fools – Ecc 10:1-3
- Guard against the folly of uprising – Ecc 10:4-11
- Guard against the folly of words – Ecc 10:12-15
- Guard against irreverent words and thoughts – Ecc 10:16-20



Ecc 10:1 Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour: so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honour.

### Guard against the folly of fools

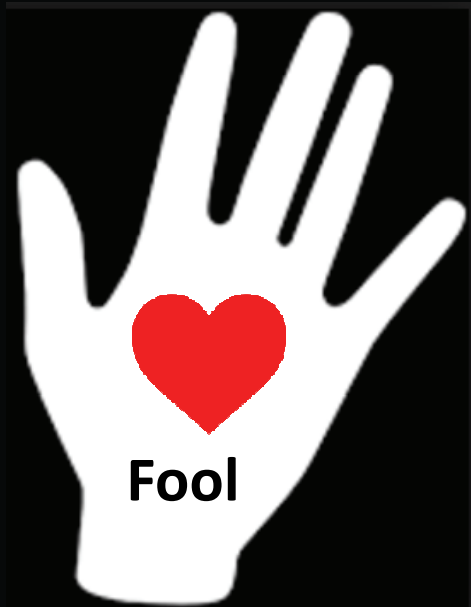


- To successfully live and operate in a bad civil government, Christians must choose God's wisdom over the wisdom of the world.
- The folly of fools is rooted in worldly wisdom.
- Colossians 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

Ecc 10:2 A wise man's heart is at his right hand; but a fool's heart at his left.

- **Guard against the foolish mind.**

- The right hand is the hand of salvation (Psa 18:35, 20:6), righteousness (Deu 33:2, Mk 16:19, 1Pe 3:22), power (Exo 15:6), and blessing (Gen 48:8-22).
- The heart or mind of the wise desires the things above and not of the world.
- The heart or mind of fools is at the left hand—the exact opposite of the above, and is worldly.
- Their mind and affection are set on the things of the world and not on things of God.



Ecc 10:3 Yea also, when he that is a fool walketh by the way, his wisdom faileth him, and he saith to every one that he is a fool.



- **Guard against the foolish way**
- As a result of choosing the world's wisdom over God's words, fools are at a loss and constantly make bad choices.
- The wisdom of fools is to build the house (life) upon the sand (shifting and uncertain wisdom), but God's wisdom is to build the house upon a rock (Jesus Christ).
- **Mt 7:26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: (27) And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.**
- Fools' wisdom will fail them and they will say, "I am such an idiot!"



Ecc 10:4 If the spirit of the ruler rise up against thee, leave not thy place; for yielding pacifieth great offences. (5) There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, as an error which proceedeth from the ruler: (6) Folly is set in great dignity, and the rich sit in low place. (7) I have seen servants upon horses, and princes walking as servants upon the earth.

### **A powder keg situation ready to explode**

- Idiots are in charge, while capable and talented people (the rich) are degraded to sit in low places.
- Idiots make stupid policies that impact your livelihood.
- Happens all the time (evil under the sun) in both the public and private sectors.



- How upset will you be?
- If you find yourself in a situation where a ruler or superior is coming after you because they don't like your colorful counsel, the solution is yield to the ruler's anger in a calm disposition.
- **Proverbs 25:15 By long forbearing is a prince persuaded, and a soft tongue breaketh the bone.**

Ecc 10:8 He that diggeth a pit shall fall into it; and whoso breaketh an hedge, a serpent shall bite him. (9) Whoso removeth stones shall be hurt therewith; and he that cleaveth wood shall be endangered thereby.



### Warning against treason

- Dig a pit – an attempt against the ruler's life.  
Pro 26:27, Psa 7:15, 35:7, 57:6.
- Break a hedge – an attempt against the ruler's security.  
Pro 3:29.
- Remove stones – an attempt against the ruler's governing structure .
- Cleave wood – an attempt to split the government .



Ecc 10:10 If the iron be blunt, and he do not whet the edge, then must he put to more strength: but wisdom is profitable to direct. (11) Surely the serpent will bite without enchantment; and a babbler is no better.



- If you don't know how to apply God's words on life's problems, you will go through life the hard way. It would be like splitting wood with a dull axe. You will exert a lot of effort and not make much progress, but increase your suffering instead.

- If a ruler is coming at you like a provoked serpent that is ready to bite, it is futile to talk your way out of a snake bite like a babbler (master of tongue or orator). You must exercise the art of charming based on God's words. James 3:17



Ecc 10:12 The words of a wise man's mouth are gracious; but the lips of a fool will swallow up himself. (13) The beginning of the words of his mouth is foolishness: and the end of his talk is mischievous madness. (14) A fool also is full of words: a man cannot tell what shall be; and what shall be after him, who can tell him? (15) The labour of the foolish wearieth every one of them, because he knoweth not how to go to the city.

Before you speak:

**THINK**

**T** = Is it True?

**H** = Is it Helpful?

**I** = Is it Inspiring?

**N** = Is it Necessary?

**K** = Is it Kind?

- If what you are about to say is not gracious, bite your tongue.
- Three characteristics of fools:
  - Fools talk nonsense.
  - Fools talk a lot.
  - Fools are lost.
- Two seemingly contradicting ways for handling fools:
  - Proverbs 26:4 Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him.
  - Proverbs 26:5 Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit.

Ecc 10:16 Woe to thee, O land, when thy king is a child, and thy princes eat in the morning! (17) Blessed art thou, O land, when thy king is the son of nobles, and thy princes eat in due season, for strength, and not for drunkenness!



- Another explosive situation of bad government...
  - Rulers give themselves to pleasures instead of governing.
- When rulers indulge in pleasures, they become childish and neglect their duties.

“Government is like a baby. An alimentary canal with a big appetite at one end and no sense of responsibility at the other.”  
– President Ronald Reagan.
- Isaiah 5:11 Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, till wine inflame them!
- Happy is the nation that is governed by nobles (not just aristocratic in blood or political or social status, but wise rulers who execute justice, and judgment, and equity, according to the instructions of wisdom.)



Ecc 10:18 By much slothfulness the building decayeth; and through idleness of the hands the house droppeth through.



If we have time for folly, something is decaying in our lives.

- Much effort is required to maintain a government and keep its people safe, healthy, and happy.
- Rulers given to folly and pleasures will be the ruin of a nation.
- Personal application:
  - Much effort is required to maintain both the physical and spiritual lives.
  - Need physical food for physical strength, and spiritual food for spiritual strength.
  - Keep our spirit fed with prayer, the word of God, and the fellowship of believers.

Ecc 10:19 A feast is made for laughter, and wine maketh merry: but money answereth all things. (20) Curse not the king, no not in thy thought; and curse not the rich in thy bedchamber: for a bird of the air shall carry the voice, and that which hath wings shall tell the matter.

- The pleasures of folly are not cheap to maintain.
- The rulers in power will need to raise taxes, adding sorrow to the people they serve.
- Even so, do not speak irreverently or contemptuously of them. Words have a mysterious way of getting out, as if a bird hears your saying and repeats it. "Hedges have eyes, and walls have ears."
- PRAY for authorities rather than to SPRAY mean words at them.



# You have been illuminated to these truths:

## Living with Bad Civil Government

1. Guard against the folly of **fools** – Ecc 10:1-3
2. Guard against the folly of **uprising** – Ecc 10:4-11
3. Guard against the folly of **words** – Ecc 10:12-15
4. Guard against **irreverent words** and **thoughts** – Ecc 10:16-20

## Notes:

- There is no good human government on earth. The human nature is corrupt and many are without a moral compass. Many rulers abuse power to serve and profit self.
- As God's servants, we are to operate wisely in taking the gospel to all parts of the world. This includes countries run by religious authoritarian regimes that are hostile to Christianity.
- Please submit your questions and feedback to [TheHappinessCode@yahoo.com](mailto:TheHappinessCode@yahoo.com)