

WEEK 10: November 12, 2017

Ecclesiastes 7:16-29

Question: What is the benefit of Godly wisdom?

Ecclesiastes 7:16–18, ¹⁶ Do not be overrighteous, neither be overwise— why destroy yourself? ¹⁷ Do not be overwicked, and do not be a fool— why die before your time? ¹⁸ It is good to grasp the one and not let go of the other. The man who fears God will avoid all extremes.

GODLY WISDOM MAKES OUR LIVES BETTER

- Self-righteousness and false wisdom are **destructive**.
- The fear of God is the **solution**

Proverbs 15:33 The fear of the LORD teaches a man wisdom . . .

Proverbs 19:23 The fear of the LORD leads to life: Then one rests content, untouched by trouble.

Proverbs 16:6 Through the fear of the LORD a man avoids evil.

Proverbs 1:7 . . . fools despise wisdom and discipline.

Proverbs 10:23 A fool finds pleasure in evil conduct . . .

Proverbs 13:20 . . . a companion of fools suffers harm.

Proverbs 28:26 He who trusts in himself is a fool . . .

Ecclesiastes 7:19–24, ¹⁹ Wisdom makes one wise man more powerful than ten rulers in a city. ²⁰ There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins. ²¹ Do not pay attention to every word people say, or you may hear your servant cursing you— ²² for you know in your heart that many times you yourself have cursed others. ²³ All this I tested by wisdom and I said, “I am determined to be wise”— but this was beyond me. ²⁴ Whatever wisdom may be, it is far off and most profound— who can discover it?

GODLY WISDOM MAKES US STRONGER

- **The one who fears God becomes a force to be reckoned with (cf. John 14:25-27; Acts 1:4-5)**

2 Timothy 1:6–7, ⁶ . . . fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷ For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

- **Power to address the problem of sin**
- **Power to confront life’s challenges**
- **Power to love deeply, even in the face of hostility**

Ecclesiastes 7:25–29, ²⁵ So I turned my mind to understand, to investigate and to search out wisdom and the scheme of things and to understand the stupidity of wickedness and the

madness of folly. ²⁶ I find more bitter than death the woman who is a snare, whose heart is a trap and whose hands are chains. The man who pleases God will escape her, but the sinner she will ensnare. ²⁷ “Look,” says the Teacher, “this is what I have discovered: “Adding one thing to another to discover the scheme of things— ²⁸ while I was still searching but not finding— I found one upright man among a thousand, but not one upright woman among them all. ²⁹ This only have I found: God made mankind upright, but men have gone in search of many schemes.”

WISDOM PROVIDES FOCUS

- By offering a clear guided **path** to escape foolishness (cf. Proverbs 8:1-11)
- By revealing the **deception** bound up in our hearts (cf. 1 Kings 11:1-11)

For further study . . .

1. Read 1 Kings 11 and Proverbs 8.
2. Consider what sin has done to Solomon. What has sin done to you?
3. In what way or ways has God’s wisdom made you wiser?
4. Compare Proverbs 8 with John 1:1-14. Can you see Jesus in these passages?