

Can Wisdom Give our Lives Meaning?

Ecclesiastes 1:12-18

1. What is Wisdom?
 - a. Knowledge is about information. Wisdom is applying information to life.
 - b. Broadest, most comprehensive term for Hebrews for intellectual, spiritual, and practical understanding. Roughly understood as the “art of success”. The combination of insight gained by observing how life works, of organizing carefully all information available, of applying it prudently to personal and communal life...
 - c. Wisdom here is what humans can learn about the world without any special revelation from God.
 - d. How does the world work?

2. The Pursuit. (vv. 12-14)
 - a. Sincere, deliberate, comprehensive, thorough, commendable...
 - i. 1 Kings 3:5-10
 - b. The result: Frustrating. Futile.

3. Why is pursuing wisdom so frustrating? (v. 15)
 - a. The Bible would say it is good. Proverbs 8:35.
 - b. Wisdom allows me to see problems but doesn't necessarily provide the answer.

4. The pursuit continues. (vv. 16-17)
 - a. Excelling in best practices.
 - i. 1 Kings 4:29-34
 - b. The result is the same.

5. Why Is pursuing wisdom so frustrating? (v. 18)
 - a. Wisdom allows me to see more of what is wrong, but with no answers it only leads to pain, not peace and certainly not meaning.

LOOKING AT LIFE BEYOND THE SUN:

1. The Bible applauds wisdom.
 - a. Proverbs 3:13-18 Happy is the man who finds wisdom, And the man who gains understanding; 14 For her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, And her gain than fine gold. 15 She is more precious than rubies, And all the things you may desire cannot compare with her. 16 Length of days is in her right hand, In her left hand riches and honor. 17 Her ways are ways of pleasantness, And all her paths are peace. 18 She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, And happy are all who retain her.

2. The Bible says wisdom is only found in submitting to God.
 - a. Wisdom can't lead you to God, but coming to God leads you to wisdom.
 - b. Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.
 - c. Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.
 - d. 1 Corinthians 1:18-21

3. Jesus is the wisdom of God in human flesh.
 - a. 1 Corinthians 1:24-31
 - b. A life that matters is found in Jesus who is wisdom, but also our salvation.
 - i. Matthew 12:42
 - c. Jesus steps into our crooked world to make things straight.
 - i. Ecclesiastes 7:13
 - d. Jesus gives hope in the face of the wrongs that we see and are impotent to do anything about.
 - i. Revelation 21:3-5

CONCLUSION: Can wisdom give meaning to our lives?

- No, if it is wisdom apart from God.
- Yes, if it is the wisdom that comes from God. His name is Jesus!