

Wisdom: Benefits and Limitations

Ecclesiastes 9:13-10:11

The Point: Even with its limitations, wisdom is better than folly. (vv. 13-18)

- Ecclesiastes 2:16
- 2 Samuel 20:21

1. Seek to be known for wisdom. A little folly ruins great wisdom. (vv. 1-3)

- Proverbs 2:1-5 My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, 2 turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding—3 indeed, if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, 4 and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, 5 then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.
- Deuteronomy 4:9 Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.
- Proverbs 4:20-23 My son, pay attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. 21They are not to escape from your sight; Keep them in the midst of your heart. 22For they are life to those who find them, And healing to all their body. 23Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it flow the springs of life.
- 2 Timothy 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

2. Seek to act wisely. Wisdom can make things right, but it doesn't always. (vv. 4-9)

- Proverbs 15:18 A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, but he who is slow to anger calms dispute.
- Proverbs 25:15 A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, but he who is slow to anger calms dispute.

3. Work wisely. Wisdom can't make work perfect, but it can make it better. (vv. 10-11)

- Proverbs 6:6-11 Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! 7 It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, 8 yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest. 9 How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep? 10 A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest—11 and poverty will come on you like a thief and scarcity like an armed man.

LOOKING AT LIFE BEYOND THE SUN:

- I. Jesus is wisdom from God.
 - A. Colossians 2:2-3 My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
 - B. 1 Corinthians 1:18-30

- II. We build our lives on the wisdom that saves us.
 - A. Matthew 7:24-27 Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.
 - B. 2 Timothy 3:15 And how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.
 - C. 1 Peter 2:13-15 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, 14 or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. 15 For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people.
 - D. 18-19 Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. 19 For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God.
 - E. 2:21 To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.
 - F. James 3:17-18 But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. 18 Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.
 - G. Ephesians 5:15-17 Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.