

ECCLESIASTES

FINDING MEANING IN THIS LIFE

Message Title: **In Pursuit of Wisdom**

Ecclesiastes 7:13-29 NASB | Sunday AM, November 21st, 2021

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¹³Consider the work of God, For who is able to straighten what He has bent? ¹⁴On the day of prosperity be happy, But on the day of adversity consider: God has made the one as well as the other So that a person will not discover anything *that will come* after him. ¹⁵I have seen everything during my lifetime of futility; there is a righteous person who perishes in his righteousness, and there is a wicked person who prolongs *his life* in his wickedness. ¹⁶Do not be excessively righteous, and do not be overly wise. Why should you ruin yourself? ¹⁷Do not be excessively wicked, and do not be foolish. Why should you die before your time? ¹⁸It is good that you grasp one thing while not letting go of the other; for one who fears God comes out with both of them. ¹⁹Wisdom strengthens a wise person more than ten rulers who are in a city. ²⁰Indeed, there is not a righteous person on earth who *always* does good and does not *ever* sin. ²¹Also, do not take seriously all the words which are spoken, so that you do not hear your servant cursing you, ²²for you know that even you have cursed others many times as well. ²³I tested all this with wisdom, *and* I said, "I will be wise," but *wisdom* was far from me. ²⁴What has been is remote and very mysterious. Who can discover it? ²⁵I directed my mind to know and to investigate, and to seek wisdom and an

explanation, and to know the evil of foolishness and the foolishness of insanity.²⁶ And I discovered as more bitter than death the woman whose heart is snares and nets, whose hands are chains. One who is pleasing to God will escape from her, but the sinner will be captured by her.²⁷ “Behold, I have discovered this,” says the Preacher, “*by adding* one thing to another to find an explanation,²⁸ which I am still seeking but have not found. I have found one man among a thousand, but I have not found a woman among all these.²⁹ Behold, I have found only this, that God made people upright, but they have sought out many schemes.”

Introduction

1. The _____ In Our Pursuit of Wisdom -vs. 15-29

A. This is a Crooked _____ -vs. 15-18

B. We are a Crooked _____ - vs. 19-22

C. Our _____ Prevents Wisdom – vs. 23-29

2. The _____ In Our Pursuit of Wisdom -vs. 13-14

Application Questions

1. *What are some issues in life that have caused you to ask “Why Lord?”*
2. *How has sin prevented or hindered wisdom in your life?*
3. *What is it about God (nature, attributes) that causes us to trust Him in life’s trials?*
4. *What helps you to resolve seeming contradictions between what you see in life and what the Word of God promises?*
5. *What is an event in your life that moved you to conclude with Job and Solomon that “God has made the one as well as the other”*

BE A DOER. Your responsibility, by God’s enabling, is to consistently apply the divine principles and truths you have heard (Phil 2:12-13; 1 Tim 4:7-9; James 1:22-27). As you meditate on this message, ask yourself these questions: (1) How does God want my beliefs/actions to change? (2) How can I accomplish this change? (3) What is the first step toward bringing about this change?