



Wisdom is Good and Profitable

Ecclesiastes 6:1 – 7:14

Without God, life is empty

- Eccl 6:1-5 There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, and it is common among men: ² A man to whom **God** has given riches and wealth and honor, so that he lacks nothing for himself of all he desires; yet **God** does not give him power to eat of it, but a foreigner consumes it. This is vanity, and it is an evil affliction.
 - Gaining riches/Power to enjoy = Both are Given by God
 - No matter how great the blessings, can't be enjoyed alone

Without God we can't be satisfied

- 6:7-9 All the labor of man *is* for his mouth, And yet the soul is not satisfied. ⁸ For what more has the wise *man* than the fool? What does the poor man have, Who knows *how* to walk before the living? ⁹ Better *is* the sight of the eyes than the wandering of desire. This also *is* vanity and grasping for the wind.
 - All work is to fill earthly needs, yet appetite is never satisfied
 - Apart from God, what advantage is the wise over the fool

Only God can explain life

- 6:10-12 Whatever one is, he has been named already, For it is known that he *is* man; And he cannot contend with Him who is mightier than he. ¹¹ Since there are many things that increase vanity, How *is* man the better? ¹² For who knows what *is* good for man in life, all the days of his vain life which he passes like a shadow? Who can tell a man what will happen after him under the sun?
 - We cannot change that we are “man” contending with God
 - We can't escape limitations of our ability and knowledge

The Value of Wisdom in Life

- Eccl 7 :1-6 A good name is better than precious ointment, And the day of death than the day of one's birth; ² Better to go to the house of mourning Than to go to the house of feasting, For that is the end of all men; And the living will take *it* to heart. ³ Sorrow is better than laughter, For by a sad countenance the heart is made better. ⁴ The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, But the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.
 - There is more benefit in sobering things than frivolous things
 - To become wise we must experience suffering, hard lessons

Wisdom comes by patiently waiting

- 7:7-10 Surely oppression destroys a wise *man's* reason, And a bribe debases the heart. ⁸ The end of a thing is better than its beginning; The patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit. ⁹ Do not hasten in your spirit to be angry, For anger rests in the bosom of fools. ¹⁰ Do not say, “Why were the former days better than these?” For you do not inquire wisely concerning this.
 - A mark of wisdom is patience, waiting to end to see purpose
 - Patiently live in the present; wait for God to work things out

Wisdom gives life and shelter

- 7:11-12 Wisdom *is* good with an inheritance, And profitable to those who see the sun. ¹² For wisdom *is* a defense *as* money *is* a defense, But the excellence of knowledge *is that* wisdom gives life to those who have it.
 - Wisdom should be our goal..can be a defense (shelter)
 - Very beneficial.. Can give life, joy, happiness, contentment

Consider God's purpose in adversity

- 7:13-14 Consider the work of God; For who can make straight what He has made crooked? ¹⁴ In the day of prosperity be joyful, But in the day of adversity consider: Surely God has appointed the one as well as the other, So that man can find out nothing *that will come* after him.
 - Consider the purpose of God.. accept our circumstances
 - God's providence is working in both good and bad times
 - What is God teaching us in our present difficult time?



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