
In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider: God has made the one as well as the other, so that man may not find out anything that will be after him. (Ecclesiastes 7:14)

I. It's Better To Be Wise

- a. There are many examples of wisdom in Ecclesiastes. Wisdom can't explain all of life's mysteries, but wisdom can make three positive contributions to our lives.
- b. Wisdom can make life better. (vv.1-10) *Better* is a key word in this chapter and it is used to contrast extremes. In v.1, he contrasts two significant days in life: the day of birth and death.
 1. This an ancient saying, "Every person has three names, one his father and mother gave him, one others call him, and one he acquires himself."
 2. The life lived in between these events will determine whether your name leaves behind a sweet fragrance or a foul stench.
- c. Wisdom helps us see life clearly. (vv.11-14) God's wisdom enables us to accept/deal with the changing experiences of life. "God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, Courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference." (*Serenity Prayer* – Reinhold Niebuhr).
 1. Wisdom gives us perspective so that we aren't discouraged in difficult times or become arrogant when things are going well. (v.14)
 2. God balances our lives by giving us enough blessings to keep us happy and enough burdens to keep us humble.
- d. Wisdom helps us face life with strength. (vv.19-29) The wise person fears the Lord and therefore, does not fear anyone or anything else (Psalm 112). The Christian faces many problems in life and here are a few to overcome with godly wisdom. (read James 1:5-8)
 1. **Sin** – We are guilty of both sins of omission and commission. Wisdom will guide and guard us in our daily walk.
 2. **What people say about us** – The wise Christian pays no attention to gossip because they are attending to the Lord's business. *The minister ought to have one blind eye one deaf ear.* -Charles Spurgeon. By the way, we have done our own share of talking about others. (Matt 7:1-3)
 3. **We cannot grasp the meaning of all that God is doing in the world** – The wise person knows that they do not know, and this is what helps to make them wise.

II. The Accessibility of Wisdom

- a. Godly wisdom is all around us, but so is worldly wisdom. Everyone has an opinion to share.
- b. Know that God is the source for all wisdom. (Proverbs 1:7)
- c. God reveals His wisdom by His Spirit through His Word. God is not 'Dear Abby'.
 1. Be in the practice of seeking God **before** tragedy hits.
- d. God reveals His wisdom by His Spirit through His Word to the hearts that are open to Him.
 1. Our hearts should not be divided. God blesses committed obedience.
 2. Godly wisdom and worldly wisdom are always in opposition.

III. Thoughts and Considerations for Action

- a. In this chapter, Solomon concludes that it is better to be wise than a fool. *It is better to listen to rebuke from a wise person than to listen to the song of fools.* (v.5)
- b. You should never seek counsel from people who simply tell you what you want to hear. Listen to those who will tell you the truth even when it is difficult.
- c. Beloved, wisdom is yours for the asking. Just ask! (ask in faith without doubting)