



Part 1: Wisdom

Wisdom in the rest of the Scriptures

The Call of Wisdom:

Proverbs 1:20-33

The Value of Wisdom:

Proverbs 2:1-22

The Fruit of Wisdom:

Proverbs 4:5-9, 27:3-7

The Boast of Wisdom:

Jeremiah 9:23-24

The End of the Wise:

Daniel 12:2-3

The Wisdom of God:

Romans 11:33-36

Wisdom in Christ:

Colossians 2:1-10

Wisdom at the Cross:

1 Corinthians 1:17-31

The Mind of Christ:

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

The Promise of Wisdom:

James 1:2-8

Two Kinds of Wisdom:

James 3:12-18

Wisdom in Ecclesiastes

The book of Ecclesiastes was written by a man who excelled in wisdom - greater than all who came before him (1:16), and yet he discovered that there was great frustration even in being wiser than all who were around him. Through his life the Preacher exposed the lie that living wisely will always bring great satisfaction and fulfilment. If we honestly looked at the world we'd see that this is true - some fairly unwise people become rich and famous, while others are dealt a tough time in life regardless of their intelligence and wisdom. No matter how wise you are and how good your life decisions might be there are times when there's just nothing you can do to stop things falling apart.

Does this fact negate the exhortation of the Scriptures to live wisely? Of course not. Our God is a God of wisdom, and therefore to be wise is to be like Him, and there is still that basic rule that very often foolish decisions will put you in trouble and lead you down dangerous paths. The application of the Preacher's reality check on wisdom is that we wouldn't put our hope in our wisdom, but in God, and trust in His perfect plan to accomplish great good for us, rather than trusting our own wise decisions. These great truths of God's providence and also His ultimate judgment underpin much of the application of this book.

You see, there is a great desire in us as human beings to build our own lives by our wisdom, and to make sure we have good outcomes from the decisions that we make. How often have you heard someone complaining at the bad lot that life has dealt them, when they 'deserve' more. The Preacher wants us to know that it just doesn't work that way, but it's ok because there is someone greater than us in control of what is happening. He wants us to rest safe in the knowledge that God has a perfect plan for us despite the seeming chaos that seems to go on around us much of the time. Where we see disorder and things falling apart, God sees a beautiful picture of His plans and purposes being fulfilled across the world.

The Preacher also wants us to look forward to the day when all our wise and foolish actions will be weighed up and seen for what they really are, rather than depending on reward for our wisdom now. On the final day of reckoning we will no longer be able to look at life as unfair as we may be tempted to do now, but we will see that to choose wisdom truly was the best course of action.

If we're willing to take on board the truth of this book it will save us much frustration and disappointment as we depend not on our own wisdom to shape and mould our lives, but in the wisdom of our all-wise Creator God.