



GETTING THE MOST OUT OF THE MIDST

WHAT WISDOM CAN AND CAN'T DO

ECCLESIASTES 7:11-29

Ben Blakey - Compass Bible Church - March 12 & 13, 2022

1. Yield _____
(vv. 13-15, 23-24)

2. Protect _____
(vv. 11-12, 18-19)

(vv. 16, 21-22)

(vv. 17, 25-29)

Ecclesiastes 7:11–29 (ESV)

11 Wisdom is good with an inheritance, an advantage to those who see the sun. 12 For the protection of wisdom is like the protection of money, and the advantage of knowledge is that wisdom preserves the life of him who has it. 13 Consider the work of God: who can make straight what he has made crooked? 14 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. 15 In my vain life I have seen everything. There is a righteous man who perishes in his righteousness, and there is a wicked man who prolongs his life in his evildoing. 16 Be not overly righteous, and do not make yourself too wise. Why should you destroy yourself? 17 Be not overly wicked, neither be a fool. Why should you die before your time? 18 It is good that you should take hold of this, and from that withhold not your hand, for the one who fears God shall come out from both of them. 19 Wisdom gives strength to the wise man more than ten rulers who are in a city. 20 Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins. 21 Do not take to heart all the things that people say, lest you hear your servant cursing you. 22 Your heart knows that many times you yourself have cursed others. 23 All this I have tested by wisdom. I said, "I will be wise," but it was far from me. 24 That which has been is far off, and deep, very deep; who can find it out? 25 I turned my heart to know and to search out and to seek wisdom and the scheme of things, and to know the wickedness of folly and the foolishness that is madness. 26 And I find something more bitter than death: the woman whose heart is snares and nets, and whose hands are fetters. He who pleases God escapes her, but the sinner is taken by her. 27 Behold, this is what I found, says the Preacher, while adding one thing to another to find the scheme of things— 28 which my soul has sought repeatedly, but I have not found. One man among a thousand I found, but a woman among all these I have not found. 29 See, this alone I found, that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. **Read Psalm 46:10.** Some translations use the phrase “cease striving” at the beginning of the verse. What are some of the ways you need to “be still” or “cease striving” in your own thoughts as you yield to the wisdom of the Lord?

2. **Read Ecclesiastes 7:14.** In addition to what is said here, what would be some helpful things to “consider” in the day of adversity? Find some specific verses that would be helpful to dwell on in those times.

3. **Read Proverbs 2:11.** How much do you think that you honestly value wisdom? What would it look like to value wisdom more than you do? What are some ways you have seen wisdom preserve and protect you?

4. **Read Ephesians 4:1-3.** These verses remind us that humility (and not self-righteousness) should characterize true Christian unity. What are some of the ways you might be tempted to be self-righteous in relationships with others? What are some ways you could be humbler and more gracious?

5. What are some of the foolish schemes of the world that might appear tempting to you? While these things may appeal to the flesh, how does wisdom help us to see that they are actually destructive? What are some verses you will meditate on this week to remind you of these truths?

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Here are some books which may help you dig deeper into what we studied today. While Pastor Ben cannot endorse everything about each book/author, he does think these books are worth considering and reading.

Bridges, Jerry. *Trusting God*. NavPress, 1988.

Lambert, Heath. *Finally Free: Fighting for Purity with the Power of Grace*. Zondervan, 2013.

Wiersbe, Warren. *Be Satisfied*. Victor Books, 1990.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Praise God for the wisdom and sovereignty He displays in all things.

Pray that God would help us to yield to His wisdom.

Pray that God would help us to escape both self-righteousness and worldliness.

Pray for our upcoming men's event to encourage and strengthen the men of our church!

Pray that God will provide a long-term home for CBCTV through the Taking Ground project.

REVIVAL FROM THE BIBLE READING

Date	Old Testament	New Testament
3/14	Numbers 24-26	Luke 10:25-42
3/15	Numbers 27-29	Luke 11:1-26
3/16	Numbers 30-31	Luke 11:27-54
3/17	Numbers 32-33	Luke 12:1-21
3/18	Numbers 34-36	Luke 12:22-40
3/19	Deuteronomy 1-2	Luke 12:41-59