

Ecclesiastes

LEARNING TO LIVE LIFE
AS A GIFT NOT GAIN

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CHAPTER 9:17 -- 10:20

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➤ Ecclesiastes 6:12

For ***who knows what is good for man in life***, all the days of his vain (frustrating and puzzling) life which he passes like a shadow?

Who can tell a man what will happen after him under the sun?

➤ Jeremiah 6:14

They have also healed the hurt of My people slightly, **Saying, ‘Peace, peace!’ when *there is no peace.***

Ecclesiastes

Exposing Idols in our Heart

**I. The Battle For Wisdom Is A War For
The Affection Of Our Hearts**

A. The Idols of Human Autonomy and Goodness (v.v. 1-6)

B. The Idol of Pleasure (v.v. 7-10)

C. The Idols of Self-sufficiency & Personal Accomplishment (v.v. 11-12)

McCabe's Translation:

¹³ Furthermore, I observed under the sun **an example of wisdom**, and it greatly impressed me.

¹⁴ There was a small city with only a few men in it. And **a powerful king came** to it, surrounded it, and **built great siege works against it**.

¹⁵ Now there was found in the city **a poor but wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city**. Yet no one remembered that poor man.

¹⁶ So I said, **“Wisdom is better than strength.”** However, **the poor man's wisdom was despised and his words were not heeded**.

➤ Ecclesiastes 9:16–18

¹⁶ Then I said: “**Wisdom is better than strength.** Nevertheless the poor man’s wisdom *is* despised, And his words are not heard.

¹⁷ **Words of the wise,** *spoken* quietly, **should be heard** rather than the shout of a ruler of fools.

¹⁸ **Wisdom is better than weapons of war;** But one sinner destroys much good.”

So what is this WISDOM that is so valuable?

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Why do we need this wisdom and where does it come from?

**Wisdom is the ability to know the will
of God and the willingness to do the
will of God!**

**Wisdom is seeing the world as it is and
then living like that is true.**

**Wisdom is a gift of God, not an
accomplishment of men.**

➤ Ecclesiastes 9:18

Wisdom *is* better than weapons of war;
But **one sinner destroys much good.**”

***A. Our affection for Wisdom is far too
easily corrupted
(v.v. 1-4)***

➤ Ecclesiastes 10:1–4

¹ Dead flies **putrefy** the perfumer's ointment, and cause it to give off **a foul odor**; *So does a little folly* to one respected for wisdom *and* honor.

² **A wise man's heart is at his right hand, but a fool's heart at his left.**

³ Even when a fool walks along the way, he lacks wisdom, and he **shows everyone** *that he is* a fool.

⁴ If the spirit of the ruler rises against you, do not leave your post; for conciliation pacifies great offenses.

McCabe's Translation:

² The heart of the wise inclines to the right, but the heart of a fool to the left.

³ Even as a fool walks along the road, he lacks sense, and ***he demonstrates to everyone that he is a fool.***

➤ Isaiah 41:10

Fear not, for I *am* with you; be not dismayed, for I *am* your **God**. I will **strengthen you**, yes, I will help you, I will **uphold you with My righteous right hand.**'

➤ Psalm 16:8

I have set the LORD always before me; Because
He is at my right hand I shall not be moved.

➤ Psalm 121:5

The **LORD *is your keeper***; The LORD *is your*
shade **at your right hand.**

***B. Our affection for wisdom determines
the kind of leadership we choose
(ch.10:5-7; v.v.16-20)***

➤ Ecclesiastes 10:5–7

⁵ There is an evil I have seen under the sun, As
an error proceeding from the ruler:

⁶ **Folly is set in great dignity,** While the rich
sit in a lowly place.

⁷ I have seen servants (slaves) on horses,
While princes walk on the ground like servants
(slaves).

➤ Ecclesiastes 10:16–18

¹⁶ **Woe to you**, O land, when your king *is* a child, And your princes feast in the morning!

¹⁷ **Blessed are you**, O land, when your king *is* the son of nobles, And your princes feast at the proper time— For strength and not for drunkenness!

¹⁸ Because of laziness the building decays, And through idleness of hands the house leaks.

➤ Ecclesiastes 10:19–20

¹⁹ A feast is made for laughter, And wine makes merry; But money answers everything.

²⁰ Do not curse the king, even in your thought; Do not curse the rich, even in your bedroom; For a bird of the air may carry your voice, And a bird in flight may tell the matter.

***C. Our affection for Wisdom should be
as persistent as our need
(ch 10:8-11)***

➤ McCabe's Translation:

⁸ Whoever digs a pit may fall into it; and whoever breaks through a wall may be bitten by a snake.

⁹ Whoever quarries stones may be injured by them, whoever splits logs may be endangered by them.

¹⁰ **If the iron ax is dull**, and the edge is not sharp, **then one must exert more strength**. But **wisdom has the advantage of giving success**.

¹¹ If the snake bites before being charmed, there is no advantage for the charmer.

***D. Our affection for Wisdom changes
our speech
(v.v. 12-15)***

➤ McCabe's Translation:

¹² Words from a wise man's mouth are **gracious**, but the lips of a fool consume him.

¹³ The words of his mouth begin in foolishness, and his talk ends in wicked madness;

¹⁴ yet **the fool multiplies his words. No man knows what will happen, and who can tell him what will happen after him?**

¹⁵ The toil of a fool wears him out, for he does not even know his way to the city.

➤ Psalm 19:14

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart **be acceptable in Your sight**, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.

➤ Psalm 54:2

Hear my **prayer**, O God; **Give ear to the words of my mouth**.