

## **WALK IN WISDOM**...(Ecclesiastes 9:13-10:20)

...Often at a graduation ceremony, a speaker will tell the grads how to be successful in life. Today, our text is like this with Solomon doing the speaking. He pleads with all to be wise. It is not enough to be smart, talented, skilled, attractive, and athletic. He tells that only wisdom will carry you successfully through life.

...Dr. Dobson once said, "Life is loaded and you can hurt yourself without the ability to make key decisions." Did you know that there are 5 or 6 times in our lives when we will make key decisions? If you make the wrong choice your life will crater. You will be road kill.

### **TWO INSIGHTS ABOUT WISDOM CALLING US TO WALK IN ITS LIGHT.**

Solomon urges us to make wise choices as we enjoy life, our families, and our work.

#### **I. Wisdom, Which Is A Gift From God, Is Amazingly Powerful. (9:13-18)**

- A. Solomon tells that he was "impressed" to see that wisdom was mightier than military strength.
  - 1. He tells the story: a small city with a wall was being sieged by a powerful king and his army. (v. 14) Was Solomon thinking about Joab? (2 Samuel 20:16-22)
  - 2. Within the city...a poor but wise man gave counsel and delivered the city. (v.15)  
...yet, this wise man was "not honored or rewarded." Wisdom out-maneuvered might.
- B. What is this "wisdom" that Solomon is talking about? If you are to be wise you must:
  - 1. Recognize the supremacy of God. He is all-knowing and all-wise. (Proverbs 1:7)
  - 2. Learn His Word. God's Word is full of wisdom...and it is for us. (Proverbs 3:13-18)
  - 3. You must submit yourself to Him...in salvation and as you walk through life.
- C. Further, Solomon tells that wisdom is not always heeded...people must have a humble spirit to receive it. (v.17) You must allow God's Word to direct your choices...or a disaster...
- D. Wisdom is powerful. (v.18) It will protect and guide you through life.  
...For life has many fools (sinners) who will "destroy much good." (v.18)

#### **II. Wisdom Is Superior To Folly Revealing Its Priceless Value. (10:1-20)**

...Solomon gives a series of loosely connected maxims, like proverbs, reinforcing the value of wisdom.

- A. "The fly in the ointment." (v.1) Solomon tells how a little folly destroys so much beauty.  
...It refers to the tendency for folly to predominate over wisdom in our fallen world.
- B. "The heart of the wise inclines them to the right." (v.2) This is the place of protection and safety. (Psalm 16:8) "He (the Lord) is at my right hand..." The left hand = weakness.
  - 1. The inner nature of the wise person is ever ready to protect from numerous dangers.
  - 2. The fool is directed to the left, and will end up weak and a failure. (ex. Thomas Paine)
- C. In contrast, the fool exposes himself as soon as he sets foot outside his house. (v.3)  
...in all of life he openly proclaims that he is a fool to all who meet him.
- D. Wisdom leads to patience when rulers are wicked and angry. (4-7) Don't give up. Stay true to your convictions. Your godliness and virtue will sustain you to the end.  
...At times, rulers put their foolish friends into office over those who are more qualified.(5-6)  
...There is mystery in God's plan. Don't allow it to be a roadblock to enjoying life...(9:7ff)
- E. Remember that every course in life has risk. If you are to succeed, you must act wisely. (8-11)  
...For wise people, unlike fools, take into their calculations the possible dangers.  
...Wisdom is the difference between success and failure. Wisdom must not be an after thought!  
...But note, (v.11), wisdom must be used when it is needed. Most of us know the right thing to do. It is wisdom that helps us do the right thing when it needs to be done. (not late!!!)  
...Wisdom is better than I.Q., strength, or looks. Use it! God gives it to us as a gift.
- F. Wisdom will cause your words to be "gracious in content, winsome in spirit, affectionate in appeal, and warm in tone." (12-15) What a contrast to the fool and his words.  
...a fool continues to talk thinking that he knows everything about everything and yet "does not even know the way to the next city." (15) (Solomon's sarcasm)
- G. Foolishness not only harms people, but families and entire countries. (16-19) (China, Russia, US?)  
...as we elect leaders who are fools, we will increasingly walk into the darkness and suffer for it.  
...a reckless maintenance of justice is compared to the leaking of a house's roof...rot & collapse.  
...Be warned: watch your thoughts & words about the foolish leader. (20) "A little bird told me"

### **LESSONS FOR OUR LIVES:**