

P.M. OUTLINE
9/12/2021

PUT WISDOM INTO PRACTICE

(Ecclesiastes 7:11 – 28)

INTRODUCTION - Wisdom may not solve all of our problems or smooth out all our rough roads, but it can give us perspective, a right way to look at things.

1. (v11-12) **“Wisdom is good with an inheritance, and profitable ... “**
Wisdom plus wealth is a double blessing; it provides “profitable” things “under the sun.”
“Enjoy” - (Ecclesiastes 2:24, 3:13, 5:18, 7:14)
“gives life” - it is a triple blessing when God is added to the equation.
2. (v13-14) **“Consider the work of God ... “** - this is always good and practical.
“day of prosperity be joyful ... day of adversity consider ... “ - God has set the universe in motion: days, months, years, seasons, and His providence.
(Job 2:10) “Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?”
“Man can find out nothing that will come after him” - hymns #69, #463
3. (v15-18) **“I have seen everything in my days of vanity: there is a just man ...**
And there is a wicked man ... “ - they have seemingly reversed rewards.
(Ecclesiastes 11:5; Psalm 73:1-17) will help us understand that life’s not always fair.
(v16-17) **Solomon is not saying**, “Live an average life, a life in the middle, lukewarm.”
“Overly” - don’t be a Pharisee, don’t flaunt righteousness, no self-promotion.
(Matthew 23:3) “... for they say, and do not do”
(Luke 18:9-14) “God, I thank you that I am not like other men ... “
Jesus warns against being “lukewarm” (Revelation 3:16)
(v18) “grasp this” - walk in the fear of God. (Proverbs 9:10) “beginning of wisdom”
4. (v19-20) **“Wisdom strengthens the wise ... “**
My strength is more in the Lord than “ten rulers of the city.”
(v20) “There is not a just man on earth” - Solomon said this in (1 Kings 8:46)
“Who does good” - we know people involved in doing good.
“Who does not sin” - (Romans 3:10, v23; 1 John 1:8)
5. (v21-22) **“Also do not take to heart everything people say, lest ... “**
You do not have to preach or do the bulletin to know that criticism comes our way.
(v22) “... even you have cursed others.” - Solomon, “the Preacher,” has just stopped preaching and gone into meddling. Yes, take it personally.
6. (v23-25) **“All this I have proved by wisdom ... who can find out ... “**
You cannot find “that which is far off” because it’s in the future, and you warn us again not to obsess about things we cannot understand in this life.
7. (v26-29) **“And I find more bitter than death the woman ... “**
Solomon was not wise in his choice of wives (1 Kings 11:1-10),
and that experience was “more bitter than death.”
(v26) “He who pleases God escapes her” - (2 Peter 2:9)
Solomon concludes correctly (v29) “that God made man upright>”
Here is where man went wrong: (v29) “But they have sought out many schemes.”