

STUDIES IN ECCLESIASTES (24)
Thoughts about Wisdom (1)
Ecclesiastes 7:11-28 (1)

Tonight, we continue our study of the book of Ecclesiastes. We have begun examining the second half of this letter where proper wisdom is an even greater focus. In our last two lessons from Ecclesiastes 7:1-10 we noted 7 or 8 things Solomon described as better, such as going to the house of mourning rather than the house of feasting, the rebuke of the wise, and how the end of a thing is better than the beginning.

In this lesson we will notice some more thoughts about wisdom as we read and study our way through this book. Concerning this section, one author (Wilson Adams, Ecclesiastes, Courageous Living Series) noted five things about wisdom in the remainder of this chapter. He noted that Wisdom: 1) Gives protection, 2) Gives perspective; 3) Gives balance; 4) Gives strength; & 5) Gives insight. We will devote 2 lessons to the observations of this section, with a little different approach.

I. Wisdom gives protection (11-12)

- a. **When applied to an inheritance** – an inheritance can be a good thing, or it can be a detriment. It depends on how wise the receiver is. Consider those who seek their inheritance with the intent of squandering it on pleasures (much like the prodigal son who demanded his inheritance – Luke 15:12-13) or act foolishly with it.
We often hear of sad stories with an inheritance – children fighting over how much they get and families torn apart over greed (recall how one came to Jesus from the crowd and asked Jesus to tell his brother to divide his inheritance – Luke 12:13; Jesus did not want to be an arbitrator in such things – He warned of covetousness and told *the Parable of the Rich Fool* – Luke 12:14-21).
Others simply do not know how to manage their new found wealth (because they have not been taught good stewardship, contentment, and wisdom in handling our resources) and so it is gone, and often times one is left in worse shape than when he/she received their inheritance in the first place.
- b. **“Profitable to those who see the sun”** is another way of saying, “while alive”. Contextually, consider that an inheritance will not prevent death, especially when managed by a fool. And even beyond that it CANNOT change the uncertainty of life – James 4:14 – it is a vapor).
- c. **Wisdom is a defense (protection) even as money is a defense**
 - i. Is this advocating the superiority of the pursuit of money? OR is it saying that money is EQUAL to wisdom?
No! The principles warning against greed (1 Timothy 6:9-10)-and trusting in uncertain riches still clearly apply – 1 Timothy 6 :17). Solomon deals with wealth throughout this book and in the Proverbs and Ecclesiastes.
 - ii. BUT having resources WITH godly wisdom CAN be a good thing. It can protect us from various problems (hence a defense). It can keep you full, warm and clothed. It can help you stay healthy. It can provide protection for you and your family (and even a nation).
It can relieve anxiety and worries about both the present and the future.
It may even afford you the opportunity to help others and make your community better.
Spiritually, it can help open doors to the gospel – supporting preaching, helping needy brethren overcome struggles, etc.
Often, the foolish are robbed of such blessings and opportunities because they have been wasteful and irresponsible with the resources they have been entrusted with? Massive debt, frivolous spending, no savings in case something comes us (an emergency fund), etc.

- iii. **Wisdom is LIKE this** – In fact, it is BETTER than riches (Proverbs 3:13-15 - *Happy is the man who finds wisdom, And the man who gains understanding; For her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, And her gain than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies, And all the things you may desire cannot compare with her*).
The point is wisdom can protect you in MANY areas of life, INCLUDING your finances. AND even as finances can provide some protection.
 Wisdom protects you from so many OTHER things as well – broken relationships, dealing with others, preventing mistakes and damages, and even spiritual failures. It can help you avoid the snares of the devil (2 Timothy 2:26, 2 Corinthians 2:11)
- d. **It can give life to those who have it** - wisdom may prolong life, as one uses his inheritance, or whatever resources he manages in this life.

II. Wisdom gives perspective (13-14)

- a. **“Consider”** – a word that means to contemplate or mediate upon something (cf. Philippians 4:8 – meditate – or think – on these things).
 The wise man considers many things (Proverbs 14:15, *The simple believes every word, But the prudent considers well his steps*; cf. Proverbs 6:6 – *Go to the ant... consider her ways and be wise*). And he does so with an open mind and an honest heart. He GENUINELY wants to know the truth about what he is considering.
- b. **Consider the work of God** – the wise man will realize who God really is and how He is in control. He will not seek ways around God’s will.
 - i. He knows God is there! (Cf. Psalm 8:3-4 – as David consider the heavens, the work of God’s hands and knows his place before God).
He knows that what God has made crooked, he cannot straighten, and vice-versa (cf. Ecclesiastes 1:15); He knows that he may not fully understand the working of God (Eccl. 3:11).
 - ii. But he fully realizes that He is in control – Job 12:13-15, in the midst of an answer from Job where he acknowledges the greatness of God (as we also find throughout the book of Job): *“With Him are wisdom and strength, He has counsel and understanding. If He breaks a thing down, it cannot be rebuilt; If He imprisons a man, there can be no release. If He withholds the waters, they dry up; If He sends them out, they overwhelm the earth.”*
 Proverbs 19:20-21, *Listen to counsel and receive instruction, That you may be wise in your latter days. There are many plans in a man’s heart, Nevertheless the Lord’s counsel—that will stand.*
 (cf. Romans 8:28, 31; 1 John 4:4, etc.)
 - iii. How often does man set out to overthrow God’s will?
 The Bible is filled with examples of man trying to outthink God, only to be confused and overcome. - Consider the tower of Babel – Genesis 11:1-9 – God confounded their language.
 - Consider King Ahab (married to Jezebel, and very wicked) who is warned by Micaiah (1 Kings 22:15-40) if he goes to battle he will die. Rather than listening to God, Ahab has the prophet arrested with instructions to afflict him until the king returned (as if you can blackmail God). Then he tried to disguise himself in battle. But a random arrow struck the king between the joints of his armor and he died that day (34ff).
 - iv. And even if man thinks he can survive without God, things like natural disasters and VIRUSES remind him who is really in control, and more specifically, who is NOT in control.
- c. **Consider Him whether in prosperity or adversity** – God has appointed both. He makes His sun shine on both the good and the evil (Matthew 5:45).
 - i. **In prosperity be joyful** – when we are blessed, let us be sure that we thank God and are humble.

- ii. ***In adversity – consider.*** But also, don't forget Him in the bad times. Continue to be grateful. Remember previously in this chapter – its better to go to a funeral... Why? The wise take it to heart.
 - iii. Paul, while in prison penned the encouraging and joyful letter of Philippians.
 - iv. Job 2:10, after losing everything, Job's wife tells him to curse God and die. *But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.*
- d. **God has appointed both of these** – whether we like it or not, or understand it, we need both good and bad times to give us proper perspective. If all was good times, would we really remember God and be grateful for such? Would we really LEARN and become better?
- And there are many answers that time will not permit us to examine right now, such as:
- i. Realizing He DOES know the future and details that we cannot factor in until things have run their course (cf. Isaiah 46:9-11); and
 - ii. Good can come from tribulations (Romans 5:3-5); and
 - iii. There is coming a day of judgment when all will give an account – He will take vengeance (Romans 12:19, 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9, etc.).
- e. **Can man know what will come after or in the future?** Other than what God has revealed to us, can we really predict exactly what is going to happen?
- This is why we must be careful before we start blaming or questioning God. He does know what is best.

In our next lesson, we will continue to notice some more observations from this text as seek to put this life into its proper perspective. Until then, let each of us strive to be all that God would have us to be. Where is your wisdom leading you? Think about it!

STUDIES IN ECCLESIASTES (25)
Thoughts about Wisdom (2)
Ecclesiastes 7:11-28 (2)

Tonight, we continue our study of the book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon's pursuit for the meaning of life. Last week we began studying a particular section which addresses some qualities associated with wisdom. This is a portion of this book that looks like a set of proverbs, but many of these are linked together. Concerning this particular text, one author (Wilson Adams, Ecclesiastes, Courageous Living Series) noted five things about wisdom: 1) It Gives protection, 2) It Gives perspective; 3) It Gives balance; 4) It Gives strength; & 5) It Gives insight.

Last week we examined the first 2 of these noting how wisdom can be a defense much in the same way that money WISELY used can provide protection. We included a discussion about inheritance (wise and foolish); Then we noted that wisdom can give you perspective – that is, it can help you appreciate God by considering Him, in both prosperity and adversity. Tonight, we continue our examination of this section by noting the next points.

I. Wisdom gives balance (15-18)

- a. The inequity of life – ***sometimes the just suffer and the evil prosper***. This is the age-old question we struggle with as we consider God and ourselves. It causes many to reject God.

BUT with such, remember as we have already noted, that God is in control and knows what is happening. There will be an accounting!

- b. ***Do not be overly righteous*** – a challenging statement. Is it really possible to be too righteous where God is concerned? When we consider God's definition and demands – certainly not. The righteous man is the one who DOES all that he is commanded. We have addressed this in Mathew 5:20 where Jesus demanded a righteousness that exceeds that of the corrupt leaders. We have also addressed the pursuit of holiness. Can you really be too holy?

To be overly righteous could be – self-righteousness – arrogance as we find with the scribes and Pharisees who looked down upon others (cf. Luke 18:9-14).

Or it could be ***one whose demands are so exact that he leaves no room for those who differ*** with him to be righteous. He binds where God has not bound and believes his way is the ONLY way (in areas where God's word does give leeway). NOTE: This is not a criticism of those demanding authority for all that we do (cf. Ephesians 5:11).

Or it could be ***one whose righteous pursuits cloud his wisdom concerning life***. For example: One who contributes to a godly cause to the neglect of his family and other responsibilities.

Or perhaps ***one who totally isolates himself from the world***, and as a result he removes opportunities to teach and influence others.

The point is we need to be useful to God, not only to save ourselves, but also strive to win others.

I once heard someone say that "Some people are so heavenly minded they are no earthly good." The point being we put ourselves in a situation where we cannot be light or salt (proper examples – Matthew 5:13-16) to others. Just as it is possible for too much salt to spoil a meal, and too much light to make it useful (blinding), so we must weigh our actions so that we will be EFFECTIVE both in strengthening our lives as Christians and winning others to Him!

- c. ***Do not be overly wise*** – again, we wonder how such is possible. Can you really be too wise? There is ***worldly wisdom that seeks to explain away God*** – which is what so many do today. Far too many have no place for faith where God is concerned.

There is one who is wise ***who becomes arrogant with his understanding***. One who thinks he knows it all (cf. Romans 2:18-21).

He could ***set a standard of wisdom for himself that is so high*** it is impossible to achieve. How many

won't do anything because "I don't know enough yet"? HOW LONG is that excuse acceptable?
Solomon's wisdom was greater than all others, AND a gift from God – but look where he ended up. He let his wives turn him away from God and in the end, he lost so much.

- d. **Do not be overly wicked** – following our text, this is NOT saying that its ok to be a little wicked. The truth is, we ALL fall short from time to time (Romans 3:23). We are going to sin and we need to deal with those sins (1 John 1:8-10, 2:1-2)
BUT, we know there are so many who are outright evil and wicked in their behavior and thoughts. They are destroyers and have no intent of repenting.
Do **NOT use that as an excuse to give up or continue in sinful practices**, or to say, "I can't help it". There are some brethren now who are advocating that we HAVE TO sin every day.
Furthermore, **do not view yourself worse than you really are** – some people see themselves as so worthless they give up on themselves and believe they are irredeemable. As LONG as we have breath, we will NEVER reach that point. The question is if we are willing to do something about it.
- e. **Do not be foolish** – in context, this is the only phrase of these 4 that doesn't use the word "overly". And that might be because you are either foolish or you are not. There is no middle ground.
The fool is the one devoid of sense – he acts carelessly and without thought – whether a single act or a way of life. He goes to extremes to his own hurt. He might even put his own life in danger: "Why should you die before your time?" (17) or "Why should you destroy yourself?" (16)
We have addressed the fool throughout this letter and will continue to do so as we contrast wise and foolish living.
- f. **Consider ALL of these** (18) – Solomon concludes this observation by noting that it is good to grasp balance in our lives. Do NOT ignore any of these things.
It is he who fears God that will escape them all – he will be humble and content as he seeks to be righteous and he will act with wisdom in all the decisions he makes. He will abstain from every form of evil (1 Thessalonians 5:22) and have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness (Ephesians 5:11); but realizing who he is, when he DOES stumble, he repents and seeks to repair whatever has happened. He is NOT foolish in his dealing with this life AND as he prepares to stand before God. It is that simple!

II. **Wisdom gives strength (19-22)**

- a. **Wisdom strengthens the wise more than ten rulers of the city** – force can only get you so far. You may have a superior army or strength over others, but a wise man can answer, and perhaps even overcome their strength.
Proverbs 21:22, *A wise man scales the city of the mighty, And brings down the trusted stronghold.*
We also know that there are many who are powerful who are evil and careless in the decisions they make. In time, their empires will fall. We have seen it over and over – godless leaders who never really cared for their people and were either toppled, or their fall was not grieved.
There are things wisdom can accomplish that strength simply cannot. Examples will be found in the coming chapters of Ecclesiastes (e.g. 8:2-6, 9:13-16, etc.)
Spiritually this is especially true – all the military might or wealth or power in the world will NOT save you when you stand before God to give an accounting (Romans 14:10-12 – we will each give an account of ourselves to God).
NOR can it resolve the moral lapse that is so prevalent even today. Only TRUE wisdom that fears God will lead to a more decent society.
- b. **There is not a just man on earth who does good and does not sin** – this is a Biblical teaching we must always remember. Romans 3:10-11ff, 23 tells us we are all sinners and thus we fall short of the glory of God. The one who thinks he is perfect BETTER consider 1 John 1:8 – 10 again.
In CONTEXT, the point here is we all have flaws and weaknesses. The wise man will humbly acknowledge his and seek to improve to the best of his ability.

The fool, on the other hand keeps on his reckless path and has no desire to change or even hear that he needs to change.

Proverbs 15:12, *A scoffer does not love one who corrects him, Nor will he go to the wise.*

Proverbs 20:9 - *Who can say, "I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin"?*

Ecclesiastes 4:13 also, *Better a poor and wise youth Than an old and foolish king who will be admonished no more.*

- c. ***Do not take to heart everything people say*** – This verse is SO timely today. I am convinced that ONE OF THE PROBLEMS at the root of our division as a country is our unwillingness to openly and honestly talk about our differences and disagreements. Pick the issue (homosexuality, racism, government spending, covid-19, etc. – **NOTE: I'm not discussing here who is right and who is wrong, but the attitude we have – TT**), and both sides have dug in so deeply that they won't even CONSIDER what those disagree with them have to say. They have divined themselves (act as if their word is from God) to be SO RIGHT that if you disagree with them they will label you as evil and insert whatever mean and hateful description they come up with. They will treat you with hatred and contempt and do whatever they want to do to you and think they are justified. They will try to bully, guilt and blackmail you into submission.

When people are afraid to openly express their concerns for fear of being labeled or attacked, we will NEVER find the whole truth on a given subject.

FRIENDS, as long as this mentality exists we will continue to disintegrate as a nation and within our communities.

Spiritually, I fear that at times, brethren do not act any better. I have seen some VERY UGLY behavior on social media between so-called brethren that does not honor Christ in any way. This attitude is SINFUL on so many levels and it MUST be repented of or people may lose their souls because of it!

Proverbs 18:17 says, *The first one to plead his cause seems right, Until his neighbor comes and examines him.* OH, if only we would allow this examination!

- d. ***Lest you hear your servant cursing you*** – this is the point.
ARE we LOOKING for fault in what another says or are we willing to give the benefit of the doubt? Do we automatically assume the worst in what someone says? Is it possible that we misunderstood them? Is there ANY validity to what they say (even if it is uncomfortable)? 1 Corinthians 13:5-7 in describing Christian love notes that we are to "think no evil" and we are to "bear all things, believe all things, hope all things, and endure all things." That means we give the benefit of the doubt! We assume the best until proven otherwise. It ALSO mean we are willing to ENDURE some perceived injustice if it means bringing glory to God. Solomon was saying, "Maybe he didn't mean it the way you heard it" OR "Are you looking to find fault in what he said – in word, action and motive?"
- e. ***In times past, often, you even you have cursed others*** –
Let's be honest about this – is there ANYONE who has NOT said something about someone else that they regretted? Anyone who has not uttered words or even name calling in anger? Anyone who said something in times past that they THOUGHT was ok, but now they know better and have changed their thoughts about that? Or maybe they have said something in confidence in LIMITED company that should not have been said? (And hopefully they regretted it) OR maybe they have said something that was MISUNDERSTOOD by those they were speaking to - they didn't mean to "curse" anyone, but it was perceived that way –

either innocently or hyper-critically? Etc.

James 3:2 warns us that we ALL stumble in many things – especially in our words. He proceeds to warn about how poisonous words can be!

Jesus in Matthew 7:1-5 warned about the way we judge others, including their words.

Matthew 7:12 is the golden rule – do we apply that in our judgment of what others say?

James 1:19 tells us let EVERY MAN be swift to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger. Oh how we need to apply this.

And thus, we see some of Solomon expositions about wisdom. May we desire to be both righteous and wise as God desires of us, and not what we want or the path that this world thinks we should be on. Next week, we will conclude our study of this section. So where is your wisdom leading you? Think about it.

STUDIES IN ECCLESIASTES (26)

Thoughts about Wisdom (3)

Ecclesiastes 7:11-29

The past few weeks, we have been noticing a specific section in the book of Ecclesiastes. This is part of our ongoing study of this book as we note Solomon's search for the meaning of life. We are in a section which addresses some qualities associated with wisdom. In this text we find (at least) 5 qualities associated with wisdom (From: Wilson Adams, Ecclesiastes, Courageous Living Series): 1) It Gives protection, 2) It Gives perspective; 3) It Gives balance; 4) It Gives strength; & 5) It Gives insight.

We have noted the first 4 of these. Tonight, we notice the final one – wisdom gives you insight (23-28). This is a challenging section that we need to consider both in context as well as within the culture it was written. That helps to explain what could be perceived as an insult.

I. Tested by Wisdom (7:23-25)

a. **All this I have proved by wisdom...but it was far from me.** (23-24)

Even with Solomon's wisdom from God, there were questions he could not answer. There are things that we will NEVER know the answer to. Consider God questioning Job at the end of that book – Job 38:1-4ff. Be careful before questioning God ever – Romans 9:20-21, "Who are you to reply against God?..."

1 Corinthians 1:20, "Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?"

b. He tried – **he applied his heart to know** (26). In this verse we find either a pattern, or a list of things we should consider if we want to grasp as much as we can about some given subject.

i. **He applied his heart to know** – he was serious about it. This was not superficial. We know that if we truly want to succeed at something, we need to put our heart into it. That is especially true in learning about God.

ii. **He searched** – he looked everywhere he could. He "left no stone unturned".

iii. **He sought out wisdom** – he investigated everything he could. When you are looking for something, you investigate whatever turns up to see if you can know better.

iv. He asked why - and **the reason of things**. This is a part of investigating. I am no engineer, but I KNOW some engineers, and my son Jonathan is studying to be an engineer. He explains all the classes he has to take – they are about math and science and they explain WHY things work like they do – down to the minutest detail. That's how you ensure that bridge will not collapse, or the plain will not fall out of the sky.

To the best of our ability, the better our understanding of WHY something is, the more wisdom we will have. THINK about that spiritually!

v. **He even sought to understand wickedness and its foolishness, and madness**. Sometimes when you understand the antithesis of what you are investigating, it can help give you answers and greater wisdom concerning truth. We are to beware of the devil – 2 Corinthians 2:11 – we are not ignorant of his devices; 1 Peter 5:8, be sober and vigilant to be aware of Satan.

But WHY men act evil, foolish, rashly or absurdly, we cannot know. Have you, as a righteous (or fairly righteous) person ever been amazed at how wicked some people can be? WE see it all around us! There are things about evil we will NOT be able to fully understand – be we KNOW we want no part of it!

II. Wisdom gives insight (7:26-29)

a. **More bitter than death the woman whose heart is snares and nets –**

This is a certain type of woman – consider ungodly women in proverbs.

- i. Proverbs 5:2-8, 6:23-29, 7:6-27, etc. – the adulterous, seductive woman who is a trap
- ii. Proverbs 21:9, *Better to dwell in a corner of a housetop, Than in a house shared with a contentious woman.*
Proverbs 21:19, *Better to dwell in the wilderness, Than with a contentious and angry woman.*
- iii. The same thing could be said of men who are worthless and base and destructive -
Proverbs 6:12-14, *A worthless person, a wicked man, Walks with a perverse mouth; He winks with his eyes, He shuffles his feet, He points with his fingers; Perversity is in his heart, He devises evil continually, He sows discord.*
Proverbs 11:18, *The wicked man does deceptive work, Bu he who sows righteousness will have a sure reward.*
Proverbs 25:26, *A righteous man who falters before the wicked Is like a murky spring and a polluted well.*

b. **He who pleases God shall escape her, but the sinner shall be trapped by her.** This is why I believe this to be a particular type of woman – one who is godless and manipulative. The one who is seeking to please God, will WITH WISDOM, consider who he associates with and who he will marry. See the above proverbs and many more.

How many marry unwisely (both men and women) because they look at outer appearances rather than the godly disposition (cf. 2 Corinthians 6:14).

c. **Here is what I have found...one man among a thousand...**

- i. He is looking for answers to whatever he is searching for. NOTE that this text does not tell us specifically what Solomon is addressing here. Some have speculated:
 1. A true friend – Proverbs 18:24 – there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.
 2. Whether men truly are better than women (or the reverse) – he could NOT prove it
 3. Character - such as uncompromising integrity and truthfulness, honesty, genuine, etc.
 4. A real man (or woman) who is everything he ought to be. The “ideal” man.
 5. A man who is TRULY upright where God is concerned (see vs. 29)
 6. Wisdom itself that is fully developed and applied

d. One man in a thousand, but among women I have found none -whatever it is, in his search he finds it to be a rare quality. Are there things we KNOW are extremely rare qualities in people?

NOTE: Some see this verse (and vs. 26 above) as an insult to women. Such is NOT the teachings of scripture. There is no defense for men who look down upon women, to think of them as second class. I believe such is contrary to God’s will and His view of both men and women (Galatians 3:27-28). But here are some considerations:

God did not even intend for the wife to be a stepping stool, but rather his help meet to be by his side. SO here are some considerations with this text:

- i. First consider the context – he is describing a certain type of woman. An immoral and/or contentious woman whose ungodliness makes him miserable.
- ii. Second, Solomon had trouble with his women – a thousand wives and concubines (1 Kings 11:3). They turned his heart from God. Were any of THEM good for him? Suppose he had a godly wife in the mix, did he have time to notice her? (Not a defense, but if anything an indictment against polygamy)
- iii. Third, one source also noted that we hear people make “blanket” statements even though there may be exceptions to it (which is typical of proverbs). It is observed this was from the perspective of a man making this judgment. Women, who have been mistreated by men, might make the same statement about all men.

- iv. Fourth, CONSIDER the previous verses (21-22) – are you reading more into what was said than what was intended? We may never know for sure, but is it possible?
Have you ever been rash in your judgments and words? Just thoughts.
- v. Fifth, as mentioned above, consider Solomon’s background with all his ungodly wives, and the men around him were not much better (how many were around him because of his money, power, or fame?)
- vi. Sixth, Solomon in Proverbs (the literary form of this portion of Ecclesiastes) spoke highly of the value of a virtuous wife –
Proverbs 18:22, *He who finds a wife finds a good thing, And obtains favor from the Lord.*
Proverbs 19:14 *Houses and riches are an inheritance from fathers, But a prudent wife is from the Lord.*
And of course there is King Lemuel in Proverbs 31:10, *“Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies.”*
- vii. ***It is because of such things that I believe he is identifying a specific TYPE of person Whatever the point, whatever he was looking for, it was EXTREMELY rare, but needed.***
- viii. Some commentators have observed that Solomon may be speaking in repentance and as a warning – “Don’t do as I have done”.
- ix. ONE more observation, concerning “one man among a thousand” – how many individuals (male or female) can you think of in history who lived perfectly in every way? How many men can you think of that were sinless?
I do not believe Solomon’s point was messianic, but are we not thankful for that ONE AND ONLY “man” who came to die for us. As we see in Acts 4:12, there is no other name through which we can be saved.

e. Truly, this ONLY I have found:

- i. ***God made man upright*** – note what he concludes in wisdom. God didn’t make man evil. When he was created God saw that it was good (Genesis 1:27 – we are created in His image; also vs. 31). Even today, we are not born evil – we become evil and sinful. That is another lesson.
- ii. ***But they have sought out many schemes*** – such is the nature of mankind throughout history. He has given in to Satan’s lies and sought in so many ways to discredit God and live selfishly. The Bible is FULL of examples – from Adam and Eve hiding and thinking they could hide from God; To Cain murdering his brother and thinking he could lie to God; To the Jewish leaders who betrayed Jesus, sought to discredit Paul, etc.
Solomon saw this and grieved.

Friends, wisdom is a good thing and to be sought rather than folly. If you want to live with real and lasting meaning, learn from the book of Ecclesiastes and remember the conclusion of the whole matter – Fear God and keep His commandments (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14). Is there some way that we can help you spiritually? We stand ready right now. Think about it!