

# SERMON OUTLINE Ecclesiastes 7:8-9

The Preacher's Proverbs - Part 3

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## **INTRODUCTION**

### **THE PREACHER'S PROVERBS**

*Pursue Perseverance and Patience (8)*

1. *Putting this wisdom into practice means making sure the thing we mean to begin is a good thing.*
2. *Putting this wisdom into practice means counting the cost before beginning the best thing.*
3. *Putting this wisdom into practice means being patient in pursuing and claiming success.*

*Be Slow to Anger and Quick to Let it Go (9)*

1. *Wisdom calls us to spend time meditating on our weakness and lack.*
2. *Wise calls us to carefully considering the anger of God.*
3. *Wisdom calls us to learn to act in righteousness in our good anger.*

## **CONCLUSION**

# SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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## MAIN POINT

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The big ideas of this passage are that God made the world to function in a certain way and, therefore, as we learn that way and conform to it, things tend to go better for us. Likewise, when we are ignorant of God's ways or out of conformity to them, things tend to go worse. And the main takeaway is to order our lives according to God's design and wisdom for his glory and our good.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. Which of the Preacher's proverbs that we've considered has stood out to you the most? Why? What have you done about it?
3. If you had to pick two defining characteristics of our larger culture, what would you pick?
4. In what ways do the longing for instant gratification and pride show up in your life?
5. Do you tend to start things with a bang, but not finish them? Why/not? What does it look like?
6. Have you made sure to talk a good deal about something that you began and ended up not finishing it? Why?
7. Have you ever gotten particularly frustrated that you weren't able to finish something you started on your timeline? Why?
8. Do you tend to be patient when things take longer than expected? Why/not? What does it look like?
9. What makes you angry? How quickly do you tend to get angry? How often do you find yourself angry? How long do you tend to stay angry? How do you treat others in your anger? Once angered, how do you eventually let go of it?
10. Did you realize that there was good anger? If so, how did you define it (what did you think of as its key ingredients)?
11. What percent of your anger is good anger? What percent of the way you respond to your good anger is good?
12. In what way/s did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

## AREAS OF APPLICATION

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13. Start something that you should have already started. Make sure to see it through to the end.
14. Take a break from social media this week.
15. Go over the questions Pastor Dave gave to help recognize bad anger. Where you find some, ask God to help root it out.
16. Look up the different passage Pastor Dave shared concerning God's good anger.
17. Find one way to cultivate good anger and act on it.
18. Read [Good and Angry](#) by David Powlison. Repent of bad anger and cultivate good anger.
19. Read Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God by Jonathan Edwards.
20. Ask two different people in your family or DG (1) One thing they got from this sermon, and (2) How you can pray for them.
21. Pick one specific thing you mean to do differently, with the Spirit's help, as a result of the things you heard in this text/sermon.

## PRAYER POINTS

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22. Adoration. Praise God that His nature is such that He does and perfectly completes every good thing. Praise God that He is patient, slow to anger. Praise God that He is infinitely glorious. Praise God that He is good and angry.
23. Confess. Confess a lack of fortitude, courage, perseverance, and patience. Confess pride. Confess the fear of man. Confess bad anger—quick anger and lodged anger. Confess folly. Confess a sinful lack of anger or passivity in good anger.
24. Thanksgiving. Thank God for His mercy and grace. Thank God for Ecclesiastes. Thank God for our time in Ecclesiastes. Thank God that He who began a good work in you will see it through to completion. Thank God for His patience with you.
25. Supplication. Ask God to fill us with trust in Him—in His purposes, plans, and timing. Ask God to make us persevering, patient people. Ask God to drive out all pride and bad anger in us. Ask God to heal those hurt by broken promises and sinful anger.