

# SERMON OUTLINE Ecclesiastes 7:19-29

The Benefits, Limitations, and Conclusions of Wisdom

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## **THE NATURE OF THE INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE (27)**

### **THE BENEFITS OF WISDOM**

*Wisdom Is Valuable (19)*

*Wisdom Recognizes Sin (20)*

*Wisdom Carefully Measures Words (21-22)*

### **THE LIMITS OF WISDOM (23-25, 27-28)**

### **THE CONCLUSIONS OF WISDOM**

*Enticing Women Capture and Constrain (26)*

*Wisdom and Virtue Are Rare (27-28)*

*Mankind Is Responsible for Mankind's Corruption (29)*

# SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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## MAIN POINT

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The big idea of this passage is that under the sun wisdom has both significant benefits and limitations. Its primary benefit is just what the Preacher sought: Valuable guidance for living well. And its primary limitations are that it's very elusive and never sufficient. The main takeaway, then, is to earnestly seek the right kind of wisdom, in the right place, and to the right end.

## 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. How would you describe the Preacher's pursuit of wisdom as described in Ecclesiastes? What was good about it? Bad?
3. Are there any books or passages in the Bible that are(or were) hard for you to believe are inspired by God? Why/not?
4. What are the main benefits of whatever wisdom you've found in your life?
5. Where does wisdom rank on your list of most valuable things in life? Should it be higher or lower according to Ecclesiastes?
6. Are you more likely to knowingly or unknowingly sin? How does wisdom help with that?
7. Have you ever mistakenly heard someone talk trash about you? What was that like? What did you do?
8. Have you ever had someone mistakenly heard you talk trash about them? What was that like? What did you do?
9. What wisdom has been the hardest for you to find? How hard did you look?
10. Which of the Preacher's wisdom conclusions stands out to you and why?
11. Are there any ways in which you are setting a trap of temptation? Are there any ways you've been entrapped by temptation?
12. Who is the wisest and most virtuous person you know? How did they develop both?
13. In what way/s did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

## AREAS OF APPLICATION

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14. Read the chapter in Wayne Grudem's Systematic Theology on the inspiration of the Bible.
15. Ask God to help you see sin in your life. Ask someone to help you turn from it.
16. Memorize Ephesians 4:29. See how many times you can apply it this week.
17. Ladies, make a specific plan to end any snaring. Men, make a specific plan to get far away from any temptress.
18. Find someone of particular wisdom and virtue at Grace Church, make a list of questions for them, thank them for their example, and ask if they'll spend some time with you to work through your questions.
19. Create something that captures the Preacher's perspective on wisdom from this passage.
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 He is wise, omnipotent, and sovereign. Praise God that he is righteous in all His ways. Praise God that He is gracious. Praise God that His every word is good, beautiful, and true. Praise God that He is Creator.
23. Confess. Confess your folly and unrighteousness (be as specific as you can). Confess your fear of man and elevation of his words above God's. Confess trash talk. Confess indifference to wisdom. Confess tempting or giving into temptresses.
24. Thanksgiving. Thank God for both below and above the sun wisdom. Thank God for lovingly sending Jesus. Thank God for being near. Thank God for never tempting. Thank God for giving strength. Thank God for forgiveness.
25. Supplication. Ask God to make us wise, righteous, faithful, diligent, hard-working, and up-building in our words and actions.