

SERMON OUTLINE Ecclesiastes 9:11-18

Wisdom Doesn't Help and Helps and Doesn't Help

INTRODUCTION

Wisdom Doesn't Help (11-12)

Wisdom Helps (12-16)

Wisdom Does and Doesn't Help (17-18)

CONCLUSION

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

The big idea of this sermon is that under the sun wisdom has real and inevitable limits and it has real and genuine benefits. The main takeaway, then, is to learn its benefits and limits in order that we might order our lives accordingly.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. What are some "false dilemmas" you've encountered in your life—in the world or in God's Word?
3. Which of the "false dilemmas" in the Bible has been most challenging or confusing to you? How are you responding to it?
4. Have you ever encountered someone who was sure they'd found incontrovertible proof that the Bible cannot be trusted?
5. What is the most helpful piece of under the sun wisdom you've ever found?
6. Can you tell of a time in which under the sun wisdom failed you in a significant way?
7. Which of time, chance, and sinners has derailed wisdom most in your life?
8. How have you seen simple wisdom "overpower" something that appeared much greater?
9. How have you seen the lack of wisdom do significant harm (in yourself or someone else)?
10. Which piece of proverbial wisdom mentioned by Pastor Dave do you most need to do a better job of living in light of?
11. Are there any ways in which you are trusting in under the sun wisdom more than above the sun wisdom?
12. In what way/s did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

13. Pick one of the biblical false dilemmas mentioned by Pastor Dave and study it more carefully.
14. Try to talk to a non-Christian about the reasons they reject Christianity.
15. Pick one of the ways of gaining under the sun wisdom mentioned by Pastor Dave and put it into practice this week.
16. Pick one of the under the sun pieces of wisdom mentioned by Pastor Dave and put it into practice this week.
17. Find one way you are trusting in under the sun wisdom more than above the sun wisdom and repent of it.
18. Memorize one of the Proverbs of Ecclesiastes 10 this week.
19. 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.
20. 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

21. Adoration. Praise God that He is sovereign, wise, and good. Praise God that He is infinitely fast, strong, rich, intelligent, knowledgeable, great, and mighty. Praise God that He is kind, helpful, generous, gracious, and merciful.
22. Confess. Confess your folly, your overemphasis on under the sun wisdom, and your underemphasis on above the sun wisdom. Confess your fear of sharing the gospel with non-Christians or facing their skepticism. Confess your failure to trust in the promises of God. Confess ordering your life around something other than wisdom.
23. Thanksgiving. Thank God that you don't need to be swift, strong, intelligent, or great to be wise. Thank God that His wisdom is able to bear the weight of your hope in a way that nothing else can. Thank God for the wise people in your life. Thank God for the examples of wisdom you have in His world and Word. Thank God for giving you the measure of wisdom you have.
24. Supplication. Ask God to make our church increasingly governed by wisdom and not folly. Ask God to motivate us to seek wisdom. Ask God to give us courage to act in wisdom even when it's unpopular. Ask God to help us love Him with all our minds.