

Gaining Wisdom from Ecclesiastes

(Proverbs 4:5-7)

Introduction:

1. In Proverbs 4:5-7, several important statements are made about wisdom.
 - a. Wisdom is very special -- it is described as "*the principal thing*."
 - b. Wisdom is to be pursued -- it is to be gotten, it is to be loved, and it is not to be forsaken.
 - c. Those who pursue wisdom will be blessed -- they will be preserved, and they will be kept.
2. According to Proverbs 1:1, Solomon wrote these words.
3. God blessed Solomon with great wisdom (1 Kings 4:29-30).
4. (1 Kings 4:32) Solomon passed on his wisdom through proverbs and songs.
5. (Ecclesiastes 12:9-10) We can profit from Solomon's words of wisdom.
6. "Gaining wisdom from Ecclesiastes" is what we want to accomplish today as a result of studying the Scriptures.
7. We cannot cover all the wisdom presented in this book in one lesson (to illustrate, see 1:7, 9; 7:1; 9:10, 18; 10:18; 12:1).
8. We are concentrating on 5 important subjects that Solomon covered.

Discussion:

- I. (Ecclesiastes 2:1-11) PLEASURE, DOING GREAT WORKS, AND ACCUMULATING THINGS DO NOT PRODUCE TRUE HAPPINESS
 - A. Solomon dealt with:
 1. pleasure in vs.1-3
 2. doing great works in vs.4-6
 3. accumulating things in vs.7-10.
 - B. Solomon revealed his conclusion in vs.11.
 - C. Solomon dealt with these matters further in Ecclesiastes 5:10-13.
 - D. Unfortunately, many people will not listen to Solomon's words of wisdom.
 - E. Additional instructions are given to Christians in 1 Timothy 6:17-19.
- II. (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8) LIFE CONSISTS OF MANY DIFFERENT SITUATIONS
 - A. In these verses Solomon listed 28 different "times."
 - B. They fall into 2 main categories:
 1. half of them relate to "pleasant" situations
 2. half of them relate to "unpleasant" situations.
 - C. We need to appreciate the pleasant situations and thank God for them.

- D. We need to ask God to help us when we face unpleasant situations.
- E. Later, Solomon mentioned judgment in connection with the times we face (vs.17).
- III. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12) SOLOMON DISCUSSED "STRENGTH IN NUMBERS"
 - A. Having close associates can be a tremendous source of help.
 - B. Maintaining fellowship is a blessing for Christians (Hebrews 10:23-25).
- IV. (Ecclesiastes 12:7) SOLOMON TOUCHED ON WHAT HAPPENS WHEN DEATH OCCURS
 - A. Death occurs when the spirit leaves the body (James 2:26).
 - B. The body returns to the dust, and the spirit goes to Hades to await the resurrection.
- V. (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14) SOLOMON REVEALED *"THE CONCLUSION OF THE WHOLE MATTER"*
 - A. Solomon learned that fearing God and keeping His commandments are matters of utmost importance.
 - B. We must remember this because we will eventually face God in judgment.
 - 1. Those who serve Him faithfully will be blessed.
 - 2. Those who do not fear Him and keep His commandments will be condemned.

Conclusion:

- 1. Many years after Solomon lived, God demonstrated His infinite wisdom by sending His Son to make forgiveness available.
- 2. God will forgive those who obey the Gospel (Mark 16:15-16) and walk in the light (1 John 1:7).