



In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
One God, Amen.

Wisdom - Ecclesiastes

Wisdom - The Hidden Treasure

The word “wisdom” is seldom heard spoken in our daily lives. Whether at school, work, in the mainstream media, or in our personal conversations “Wisdom” is almost never used. Instead, it has been replaced with words such as “smart”, “aware”, “influential”, etc. Perhaps the word has become attributed to old sages whose job it is to think such as a philosopher. Perhaps people don’t value wisdom anymore because it has religious undertones. In any case, as Christians we should embrace and love wisdom because embracing wisdom is embracing God. Our lord Jesus Christ is the word of God, or the wisdom of God, and is thus represented in the Old Testament as wisdom who is knocking at our door. While not everyone seeks wisdom, it is essential to our lives so that we can differentiate between what pleases God and what does not. Wisdom is such a great virtue that it cannot be attained through practice or time it can only be attained through God’s grace. We do not refer the earthly or evil wisdom of the world of course but to the heavenly wisdom of God that declares God’s will to us.

The Book of Ecclesiastes

One of the most profound books in the Old Testament and one that speaks directly on the topic of Wisdom is the book of Ecclesiastes. This book was written by King Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, on the vanity of this life without God. The word “Ecclesiastes” actually comes from a Greek word meaning “Preacher”. The book is comprised of 12 chapters broken up as follows:

1:1-11 - Introduction and illustration of Vanity

Read and contemplate on the Eccl. 1:1-11.

1:12- 2:26 - Proof of “All is Vanity” from experience

Read and contemplate on Eccl. 2:4-9.

3:1- 6:12 - Proof of “All is Vanity” from observation

Read and contemplate on Eccl. 3:1-8.

7:1 – 12:8 - The counsel for living with vanity

Read and contemplate on Eccl. 9:11-12

12:9-14 - Conclusion: “Fear God and Keep His Commandments”.

Read and contemplate on Eccl. 12:9-14.

Final Word

When St. Anthony was asked about the greatest virtue he replied “the ability to distinguish” meaning the ability to distinguish between what is right and what is wrong, what should be done and what should not. In other words, wisdom is what’s needed for us to be able to determine how to live our lives - how to live our lives with others and how to live our spiritual life. Wisdom is what helps us gain others respect and love, wisdom is what makes us succeed in our spiritual life through the grace of God and wisdom is what helps us avert the works of the enemy. King Solomon recognizes that the world is vanity without God. Do we also recognize that fact? If we recognize the vanity of the world, what will we do about it? May God give us His holy wisdom so that we can hear His voice and know His will and live our lives in a way that’s pleasing to Him. Let us remember the words of the book of Ecclesiastes which says **“Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth”** (Eccl 12:1) Glory be to our God forever, Amen.