



The Ways of Wisdom
21st in “The Good Life” Series
Ecclesiastes 10:1-20
June 18, 2017

Introduction

In this passage God exhorts us to see how our life in Christ transforms us to live in the ways of wisdom.

The Text: Ecclesiastes 10:1-20

- 1) The book of Ecclesiastes continues to teach us the ways of wisdom – the fruits of a life planted in Jesus Christ (vv. 1-3).

- 2) God reveals in this passage seven traits of a life that displays the ways of wisdom (vv. 4-20).
 - a) *Wisdom is calm – not angry or defensive (v. 4).*

 - b) *Wisdom is practiced – not a birthright or a title (vv. 5-7).*

 - c) *Wisdom is forgiving – not vindictive or malicious (vv. 8-9).*

 - d) *Wisdom is thoughtful – not hurried or unprepared (vv. 10-11).*

 - e) *Wisdom is gracious with words – not unguarded or negative (vv. 12-14, 20).*

 - f) *Wisdom is maturity – not incompetence or self-centeredness (vv. 16-17).*

 - g) *Wisdom is hardworking and responsible – not lazy or frivolous (vv. 15, 18-19).*

Response

- Can you see it yet ... the ways of wisdom that spring from a life in Christ?
 - James 3:17: “the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good gifts, impartial and sincere.”

Sermon Questions for Ecclesiastes 10:1-20

June 18, 2017

Pastor Mickey Klink

- 1) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 2) If you just read this with your small group and think it is difficult to understand, you are not alone. What has Ecclesiastes taught you about the genre of “wisdom literature” and how to read it?
- 3) Even if wisdom literature does not present a linear argument for the reader, it does present themes of one or more topics. What topics do you see in this passage?
- 4) How do vv. 1-3 explain the visibility of wisdom, that a wisely lived life is observable? In what ways have you observed wisdom in the lives of others?
- 5) In vv. 4-20, it can be argued that this text offers seven traits of observable wisdom, or what we might call “the ways of wisdom.” How does v. 4 explain that wisdom is calm and not angry or defensive? What might this look like in your life?
- 6) How do vv. 5-7 explain that wisdom is practiced and not a birthright or a title? What might this look like in your life?
- 7) How do vv. 8-9 explain that wisdom is forgiving and not vindictive or malicious? What might this look like in your life?
- 8) How do vv. 10-11 explain that wisdom is thoughtful and not hurried and unprepared? What might this look like in your life?
- 9) How do vv. 12-14 and v. 20 explain that wisdom is gracious with words and now unguarded or negative? What might this look like in your life?
- 10) How do vv. 16-17 explain that wisdom is maturity and not incompetence or self-centeredness? What might this look like in your life?
- 11) How do v. 15 and vv. 18-19 explain that wisdom is hardworking and responsible and not lazy or frivolous? What might this look like in your life?
- 12) How are these traits or ways of wisdom not virtues of self-improvement, but the transforming benefits of a life in Christ?

Further study this week: Ephesians 4:25-32 on speaking with truth and love (Mon); Proverbs 15 on the tongue (Tues); James 1:19-21 on slow to speak (Wed); Matthew 15:10-20 on speech from the heart (Thurs); James 3:1-12 on taming the tongue (Fri).