



Ecclesiastes 7:11-14

Wisdom is a comforting gift to those who welcome it

Wisdom is advantageous to those who utilize it (7:11)

11 Wisdom is good with an inheritance, an advantage to those who see the sun.

- “*good with an inheritance*” - indicates contentment and appreciation
- God-conscious gratitude helps the humility factor
- Humility is the way of wisdom
 - 1 Corinthians 4:6-7
- Wisdom doesn't compare
- Wisdom isn't discontent
 - Luke 12:13-15
- Wisdom is displayed through the willing submission to the sovereign care of our Lord
- Many lives are wrecked by a passion for more
 - 1 Timothy 6:6-10
- “*an advantage to those who see the sun*” - those blessed with provisions while they live on God's earth
- God's presence and provision is our greatest inheritance
 - Hebrews 13:5

Wisdom is protection for those who have it (7:12-13)

¹² For the protection of wisdom is like the protection of money, and the advantage of knowledge is that wisdom preserves the life of him who has it.

- Money is not evil - it is the love of money that is the root of all evil
- Money functions as the means for us to secure provisions and protection
- Wisdom is also a viable means to secure provisions and protection
 - Proverbs 1:7
- The best investment of knowledge is to guide one's learning and maturing by the fear of the Lord
 - It is not just insight and superior information that is sought
 - It is learning to humbly depend on the truth of God and the power of God
 - Fools feel superior because of what they know, not humble because of Who they know and depend on

Wisdom is protection for those who have it (7:12-13)

¹³ *Consider the work of God: who can make straight what he has made crooked?*

- If God bends people and circumstances, it is foolish to think that we can straighten Him or His ways out by our self-serving standards
- “*crooked*” - to be bent or shaped in a way that is not typical or normal
 - God bends our lives, our relationships, and our circumstances in ways we deem abnormal
 - What is abnormal to us, is purposeful to God
- God is sovereign over what is crooked in this world
- We must learn to honor God in all the bent and straight ways He has designed for His purposes and His glory
 - “*Consider*” - open your eyes and see what God is doing all over His earth
 - God does not ask us to understand or approve
 - He wants us to trust and obey
 - Romans 11:33-36
 - Rather than resistance, we need to come before Him with reverence

Wisdom knows the Lord brings good days and bad days (7:14)

14 In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider: God has made the one as well as the other, so that man may not find out anything that will be after him.

- *In the day of prosperity be joyful* - When things are going well in life, honor the goodness of God by enjoying the pleasures He provides

and in the day of adversity consider: God has made the one as well as the other

- Some days are clear, calm, beautiful, and awe inspiring
- Some days the sun doesn't shine, cold rain falls, and the wind intensifies it all
 - Dirt, disease, and death appear
 - When times of trial appear, there is no need for panic or despair
 - Job 2:10
 - Isaiah 45:7
 - Lamentations 3:37-39
 - Amos 3:6
- Our gracious God promises to meet us in all our circumstances, both good and bad
 - Zephaniah 3:17

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so that man may not find out anything that will be after him

- Predictability is nothing we can fashion
- Life does not function according to our formulas and equations
- When we think we've got it figured out, God surprises us with twists and turns we never could have seen coming
 - Isaiah 55:8-9

Questions to Consider

- How is God-given wisdom helping you to be content with what He chooses to provide for you? How do you need God to help you develop contentment and avoid comparative condemnation?
- What does your life display that shows you understand having wisdom is as important as having money?
- Why is it important for you to have reverence for God and His “crooked” ways rather than resistance?
- Do you joyfully honor God in days of prosperity? What about in days of adversity?



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