



WISDOM or KNOWLEDGE – Where are You?

Everything Has Its Place

Summary: The Man who is wise takes his joy from knowing God controls everything.

Bible Verses: Ecclesiastes 12:13; Ecclesiastes 3:1-5; Amos 3:6; Job 14:5; Isaiah 45:6,7; Matthew 10:29-30; James 4:13-17; Ephesians 5:15-17

Video Clip: YouTube – “Groundhog Day Wake Up Reel”

Music: “Turn! Turn! Turn!” performed by The Byrds

Resources: *The Best Question Ever* by Andy Stanley and *Ecclesiastes*

October 1, 2015

"Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge? Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?" —T.S. Eliot

Knowledge is gathered from learning and education, while most say that wisdom is gathered from day-to-day experiences and is a state of being wise. Knowledge is merely having clarity of facts and truths, while wisdom is the practical ability to make consistently good decisions in life. God desires that your life be a masterpiece that reflects His greatness and your uniqueness. But to create a

masterpiece with your life, you must submit yourself to the hand of the Master. That moment of awareness and surrender is the beginning of true wisdom. You must allow God to influence each stroke on the canvas of your life. This series will lead you to a path of wisdom by considering the Book of Ecclesiastes, movie clips, story, and other resources.

BEAUTY IN GOD'S TIME – Eccl. 3:1-15

1. Solomon has concluded that the basis of joy is _____. From man's vantage point, everything under the sun seems to be vanity. But when you remember that God has placed all things where they now are is beautiful (3:11). Consider the ways of God and the understanding of man through a tapestry (Amos 3:6).
2. God does all that HE does, so that man should _____. A man who reads Solomon's words or considers life without trembling has forgotten the living God.
3. This famous passage does not contain marching orders for you. But, rather, this is _____. You are being told that you have been placed in a world that you did not create or fashion, and that this world has various repetitive cycles, to which cycles we have been assigned by someone else. You are under the authority by the hand and purpose of God (Job 14:5; Isaiah 45:6,7; Matthew 10:29-30; James 4:13-17).

EMBRACE OR DENY SOVEREIGNTY?

1. _____: Keep the God of the Bible, and yet pretend HE is not sovereign over all things. The problem of tragedy torments thinkers around the world. What do you do with evil?
 - Mourning & Grief is from God (3:4).
 - Community & Holding one another is from Him (3:5).
 - Prosperity is His gift (3:6).
 - Ability to say the right words (3:7).
 - Relationships are under His Sovereign will (3:8).
2. _____ is the foundation of JOY (Eccl. 3:13-15)! Solomon's argument is built on the foundation of sovereignty and therefore all possible intelligent joy is based on this foundation.
3. Eternity has been placed in your heart. God has made you in relation to Him, and nothing you can do will alter His plan. Whatever the list—healing and killing, war and hate, mourning and laughter—_____.

THE QUESTION: WHAT IS THE WISE THING TO DO?

1. Today, we live in morally and ethically perilous times. The days are evil. If you don't pay attention, you will end up paying a price for your carelessness. To “understand” God's will is really a directive to _____ to what you know in your heart God would have you do! – Ephesians 5:15-17.
2. Unhealthy habits and new patterns of living do not happen until a man _____. A man must acknowledge the truth and quit lying to himself, otherwise, nothing positive takes place.
3. _____ > Looking back – in light of your past experiences, what is the wise thing to do? Wise men are those who have the courage to face up to God's will for their lives. They know that their past set them up for failure. You must own it. Admit it. And do the wise thing!
4. _____ > In light of your current circumstances, what is the wise thing to do? As you consider your current responsibilities and commitments, things that a year from now may not be a factor, what is the wise thing to do?
5. _____ > In light of your future hopes and dreams, what is the wise thing to do? What are your hopes and dreams. Do you have a plan? You rob yourself of your hopes and dreams when you make decisions in the moment with no thought of how these decisions will impact your future.

ACTION: Journal This!

1. How does believing that nothing that happens to you happens without God's consent effect your Joy?
2. What event from your past most effects how you live NOW?
3. What wise decision do you need to make today?
4. What is the wise choice you need to make NOW that will most affect your future hopes and dreams?

Bible Verses

Ecclesiastes 12:12-13

¹²⁻¹³ But regarding anything beyond this, dear friend, go easy.
There's no end to the publishing of books, and constant study wears you out so you're no good for anything else. The last and final word is this:
Fear God.
Do what he tells you.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

There's an opportune time to do things, a right time for everything on the earth:

²⁻⁸ A right time for birth and another for death,
A right time to plant and another to reap,
A right time to kill and another to heal,
A right time to destroy and another to construct,
A right time to cry and another to laugh,
A right time to lament and another to cheer,
A right time to make love and another to abstain,
A right time to embrace and another to part,
A right time to search and another to count your losses,
A right time to hold on and another to let go,
A right time to rip out and another to mend,
A right time to shut up and another to speak up,
A right time to love and another to hate,
A right time to wage war and another to make peace.

Amos 3:3-7

³⁻⁷ Do two people walk hand in hand if they aren't going to the same place? Does a lion roar in the forest if there's no carcass to devour? Does a young lion growl with pleasure if he hasn't caught his supper? Does a bird fall to the ground if it hasn't been hit with a stone? Does a trap spring shut if nothing trips it? When the alarm goes off in the city, aren't people alarmed? And when disaster strikes the city, doesn't GOD stand behind it? The fact is, GOD, the Master, does nothing without first telling his prophets the whole story.

Job 14:5-6

⁵⁻⁶ Mortals have a limited life span. You've already decided how long we'll live—you set the boundary and no one can cross it. So why not give us a break? Ease up! Even ditchdiggers get occasional days off.

Isaiah 45:6-7

⁶⁻⁷ Besides me there are no real gods. I'm the one who armed you for this work, though you don't even know me, so that everyone, from east to west, will know that I have no god-rivals. I am GOD, the only God there is. I form light and create darkness, I make harmonies and create discords. I, GOD, do all these things.

Matthew 10:29-31

²⁹⁻³¹ What's the price of a pet canary? Some loose change, right? And God cares what happens to it even more than you do. He pays even greater attention to you, down to the last detail—even numbering the hairs on your head! So don't be intimidated by all this bully talk. You're worth more than a million canaries.

James 4:13-17

¹³⁻¹⁵ And now I have a word for you who brashly announce, "Today—at the latest, tomorrow—we're off to such and such a city for the year. We're going to start a business and make a lot of money." You don't know the first thing about tomorrow. You're nothing but a wisp of fog, catching a brief bit of sun before disappearing. Instead, make it a habit to say, "If the Master wills it and we're still alive, we'll do this or that."
¹⁶⁻¹⁷ As it is, you are full of your grandiose selves. All such vaunting self-importance is evil. In fact, if you know the right thing to do and don't do it, that, for you, is evil.

Ephesians 5:11-17

¹¹⁻¹⁶ Don't waste your time on useless work, mere busywork, the barren pursuits of darkness. Expose these things for the sham they are. It's a scandal when people waste their lives on things they must do in the darkness where no one will see. Rip the cover off those frauds and see how attractive they look in the light of Christ. Wake up from your sleep, Climb out of your coffins; Christ will show you the light! So watch your step. Use your head. Make the most of every chance you get. These are desperate times!
¹⁷ Don't live carelessly, unthinkingly. Make sure you understand what the Master wants.

TURN! TURN! TURN! (TO EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON)

Written BY Pete Seeger and performed by The Byrds

To everything - turn, turn, turn
There is a season - turn, turn, turn
And a time to every purpose under heaven

A time to be born, a time to die
A time to plant, a time to reap
A time to kill, a time to heal
A time to laugh, a time to weep

To everything - turn, turn, turn
There is a season - turn, turn, turn
And a time to every purpose under heaven

A time to build up, a time to break down
A time to dance, a time to mourn
A time to cast away stones
A time to gather stones together

To everything - turn, turn, turn

There is a season - turn, turn, turn
And a time to every purpose under heaven

A time of love, a time of hate
A time of war, a time of peace
A time you may embrace
A time to refrain from embracing

To everything - turn, turn, turn
There is a season - turn, turn, turn
And a time to every purpose under heaven

A time to gain, a time to lose
A time to rend, a time to sew
A time for love, a time for hate
A time for peace, I swear it's not too late!

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EVERYTHING HAS IT'S PLACE! – Ecclesiastes 3:1-15.

BEAUTY IN GOD'S TIME – Eccl. 3:1-15.

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2. Unhealthy habits and new patterns of living do not happen until a man **faces the facts**. A man must acknowledge the truth and quit lying to himself, otherwise, nothing positive takes place.
3. **PAST** > Looking back – in light of your past experiences, what is the wise thing to do? Wise men are those who have the courage to face up to God's will for their lives. They know that their past set them up for failure. You must own it. Admit it. And do the wise thing!

THE QUESTION: WHAT IS THE WISE THING TO DO? – Continued.

4. **NOW** > In light of your current circumstances, what is the wise thing to do? As you consider your current responsibilities and commitments, things that a year from now may not be a factor, what is the wise thing do do?
5. **FUTURE** > In light of your future hopes and dreams, what is the wise thing to do? What are your hopes and dreams. Do you have a plan? You rob yourself of your hopes and dreams when you make decisions in the moment with no thought of how these decisions will impact your future.

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