

## WISDOM or KNOWLEDGE – Where are You?

### Work Hard & Don't Forget Who You Are!

**Summary:** The Man who is wise works hard every day and knows how to be grateful for what he has and who he is.

**Bible Verses:** Ecclesiastes 12:13; Ecclesiastes 9:10-11:6; Proverbs 12:11, 24; Proverbs 13:4; Proverbs 29:18; Proverbs 14:23; Proverbs 18:16

**Video Clips:** YouTube – “Patch Adams (8/10) Movie CLIP - You Treat a Person (1998) HD” and “Patch Adams, M.D. - Transform 2010 - Mayo Clinic”

**Music:** “40 Hour Week (For a Livin’)” performed by Alabama

**Resources:** *Joy at the End of the Tether: The Inscrutable Wisdom of Ecclesiastes* by Douglas Wilson

November 19, 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.

### WORK HARD & DON'T FORGET WHO YOU ARE! – Ecclesiastes 9:10-11:6

1. Be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. You are called to the duty of work and not to the duty of predicting results. Anything can happen. The Hebrew word for *chance* here does not refer to philosophical randomness, but simply means “occurrence.” Everything that happens is caused by something; the Bible teaches that it is caused by Someone! The results of all you do is completely in the hands of God (Eccl. 9:10-12)!
2. The wisdom of one man \_\_\_\_\_, but his advice is not always taken. The voice of the wise is better than a shouting mop—one idiot can still make a big mess (Eccl. 9:13-18).

### LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF WISDOM – Ecclesiastes 10:1-11:6

The voice of wisdom—Solomon hammers his point home:

1. 10:1 > Your mistakes are more visible than all your gifts.
2. 10:2-3 > Your life reveals who you are.
3. 10:4-7 > Some men are superior to other men, not everyone has the same gifts.
4. 10:8-10 > Think ahead, be intentional and deliberate.
5. 10:11 > Lots of lives can be torn apart with the tongue.
6. 10:12-14 > Empty chatter goes nowhere. The tongue of the wise brings life.
7. 10:15 > Working with, listening to a fool makes everything worse.
8. 10:16-17 > Beware of men who are children and abuse their power.
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11. 10:20 > Guard your tongue!
12. 11:1,2 > Be wise about what the direction of your generosity.
13. 11:3 > Take life as it comes!
14. 11:4 > Stop making excuses. Get to work!
15. 11:5,6 > God controls all things and He has not made His ways known. You do not know. Get to work!

### MEANINGFUL WORK

The pathway to being connected to the path of meaningful work:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ > You have gifts—all men do! When you cultivate those gifts and share them with the world, you create a sense of meaning and purpose in your life.
2. \_\_\_\_\_. Sharing your gifts and talents with the world is the most powerful source of connection with God.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ > Using your gifts and talents to create meaningful work takes a tremendous amount of commitment. Wise people manage to align everything—they use their gifts and talents to do work that feeds their souls, but most people piece it together.
4. What gets in the way of meaningful work > Let it Go:
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ > Self-doubt will undermine the process of finding your gifts and sharing them with the world. Self-doubt is letting your fear undermine your faith since developing and sharing your gifts is how you honor and connect with God.
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ > Shoulds are bad! You must own bad messages: What makes you afraid? What's on your “supposed to” list? Who says? Why? Write them down—writing them down and owning the messages takes the power away from negative message.

## DIG Deep!

1. Get \_\_\_\_\_: Write down your criteria for “meaningful.” Use this criteria to make decisions about what you do and what you to commit to and how you spend your time.
2. Get \_\_\_\_\_: What inspires you to pursue your dreams and gifts?
3. Get \_\_\_\_\_: What brings meaning to you? Don’t think about making a living; think about doing something you love (Proverbs 18:16).

## ACTION: Journal This!

1. What do you love about your work?
2. How do what you do bring meaning to your life?
1. What do you need to do to bring order to your life?

## Bible Verses

### Ecclesiastes 12:12-13

<sup>12-13</sup> 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 9:7-11:6

<sup>7-10</sup> Seize life! Eat bread with gusto, drink wine with a robust heart. Oh yes—God takes pleasure in *your* pleasure! Dress festively every morning. Don’t skimp on colors and scarves. Relish life with the spouse you love each and every day of your precarious life. Each day is God’s gift. It’s all you get in exchange for the hard work of staying alive. Make the most of each one! Whatever turns up, grab it and do it. And heartily! This is your last and only chance at it, for there’s neither work to do nor thoughts to think in the company of the dead, where you’re most certainly headed.

<sup>11</sup> I took another walk around the neighborhood and realized that on this earth as it is—The race is not always to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor satisfaction to the wise, nor riches to the smart, nor grace to the learned. Sooner or later bad luck hits us all.

<sup>12</sup> No one can predict misfortune. Like fish caught in a cruel net or birds in a trap, so men and women are caught by accidents evil and sudden.

<sup>13-15</sup> One day as I was observing how wisdom fares on this earth, I saw something that made me sit up and take notice. There was a small town with only a few people in it. A strong king came and mounted an attack, building trenches and attack posts around it. There was a poor but wise man in that town whose wisdom saved the town, but he was promptly forgotten. (He was only a poor man, after all.)

<sup>16</sup> All the same, I still say that wisdom is better than muscle, even though the wise poor man was treated with contempt and soon forgotten.

<sup>17</sup> The quiet words of the wise are more effective than the ranting of a king of fools.

<sup>18</sup> Wisdom is better than warheads, but one hothead can ruin the good earth.

<sup>10</sup> Dead flies in perfume make it stink, and a little foolishness decomposes much wisdom.

<sup>2</sup> Wise thinking leads to right living; stupid thinking leads to wrong living.

<sup>3</sup> Fools on the road have no sense of direction. The way they walk tells the story: “There goes the fool again!”

<sup>4</sup> If a ruler loses his temper against you, don’t panic; a calm disposition quiets intemperate rage.

<sup>5-7</sup> Here’s a piece of bad business I’ve seen on this earth, an error that can be blamed on whoever is in charge: immaturity is given a place of prominence, while maturity is made to take a backseat. I’ve seen unproven upstarts riding in style, while experienced veterans are put out to pasture.

<sup>8</sup> Caution: The trap you set might catch you. Warning: Your accomplice in crime might double-cross you.

<sup>9</sup> Safety first: Quarrying stones is dangerous. Be alert: Felling trees is hazardous.

<sup>10</sup> Remember: The duller the ax the harder the work; use your head: The more brains, the less muscle.

<sup>11</sup> If the snake bites before it’s been charmed, What’s the point in then sending for the charmer?

<sup>12-13</sup> The words of a wise person are gracious. The talk of a fool self-destructs—he starts out talking nonsense and ends up spouting insanity and evil.

<sup>14</sup> Fools talk way too much, Chattering stuff they know nothing about.

<sup>15</sup> A decent day’s work so fatigues fools that they can’t find their way back to town.

<sup>16-17</sup> Unlucky the land whose king is a young pup, and whose princes party all night. Lucky the land whose king is mature, were the princes behave themselves and don’t drink themselves silly.

<sup>18</sup> A shiftless man lives in a tumbledown shack; a lazy woman ends up with a leaky roof.

<sup>19</sup> Laughter and bread go together, and wine gives sparkle to life—but it’s money that makes the world go around.

<sup>20</sup> Don’t bad-mouth your leaders, not even under your breath, and don’t abuse your betters, even in the privacy of your home. Loose talk has a way of getting picked up and spread around. Little birds drop the crumbs of your gossip far and wide.

## Chapter 11

<sup>1</sup> Be generous: Invest in acts of charity. Charity yields high returns.

<sup>2</sup> Don’t hoard your goods; spread them around. Be a blessing to others. This could be your last night.

<sup>3-4</sup> When the clouds are full of water, it rains. When the wind blows down a tree, it lies where it falls. Don’t sit there watching the wind. Do your own work. Don’t stare at the clouds. Get on with your life.

<sup>5</sup> Just as you’ll never understand the mystery of life forming in a pregnant woman, so you’ll never understand the mystery at work in all that God does.

<sup>6</sup> Go to work in the morning and stick to it until evening without watching the clock. You never know from moment to moment how your work will turn out in the end.

## Proverbs 12:11, 24

<sup>11</sup> The one who stays on the job has food on the table; the witless chase whims and fancies.

<sup>24</sup> The diligent find freedom in their work; the lazy are oppressed by work.

## Proverbs 13:4

<sup>4</sup> Indolence wants it all and gets nothing; the energetic have something to show for their lives.

## Proverbs 29:18

<sup>18</sup> If people can’t see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves; but when they attend to what he reveals, they are most blessed.

## Proverbs 14:23

<sup>23</sup> Hard work always pays off; mere talk puts no bread on the table.

## Proverbs 18:16

<sup>16</sup> A gift gets attention; it buys the attention of eminent people.

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# **WISDOM or KNOWLEDGE – Where are you?**

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## **THE JOY OF WORK & REMEMBERING WHO YOU ARE**

***Ecclesiastes 9:10-11:6***

# WORK HARD & DON'T FORGET WHO YOU ARE!

*Ecclesiastes 9:10-11:6*

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2. The wisdom of one man can save a city, but his advice is not always taken. The voice of the wise is better than a shouting mop—one idiot can still make a big mess (Eccl. 9:13-18).



# LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF WISDOM – Ecclesiastes 10:1-11:6

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# MEANINGFUL WORK

## 1. The pathway to being connected to the path of meaningful work:

1. **Gifts & Talents** > You have gifts—all men do! When you cultivate those gifts and share them with the world, you create a sense of meaning and purpose in your life.
2. **Spirituality** > Connected to God. Sharing your gifts and talents with the world is the most powerful source of connection with God (Colossians 3:23).
3. **Making a living & Commitment** > Using your gifts and talents to create meaningful work takes a tremendous amount of commitment. Wise people manage to align everything—they use their gifts and talents to do work that feeds their souls, but most people piece it together.

## 2. What gets in the way of meaningful work > Let it Go:

1. **Self-doubt** > Self doubt will undermine the process of finding your gifts and sharing them with the world. Self-doubt is letting your fear undermine your faith since developing and sharing your gifts is how you honor and connect with God.
2. **“Supposed To’s”** > Shoulds are bad! You must own bad messages: What makes you afraid? What’s on your “supposed to” list? Who says? Why? Write them down—writing them down and owning the messages takes the power away from negative message.

# DIG Deep!

1. Get **Deliberate** > Proverbs 12:11, 24; 13:4; : Write down your criteria for “meaningful.” Use this criteria to make decisions about what you do and what you to commit to and how you spend you time.
2. Get **Inspired** > Proverbs 29:18: What inspires you to pursue your dreams and gifts?
3. Get **Going** > Proverbs 14:23; 18:16: What brings meaning to you? Don't think about making a living; think about doing something you love.

# **ACTION: Journal This!**

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WISDOM

OR

KNOWLEDGE