

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 205 – Wisdom And Inheritance Through Fair Judgment (Ecclesiastes 7:11-22)

1. What is good with an inheritance?

Wisdom: *“Wisdom is good with an inheritance: and by it there is profit to them that see the sun” (Ecclesiastes 7:11).*

- There are the unwise who WASTE their inheritance because they are fools (**Proverbs 21:20** and **Luke 15:11-15**). Remember, wisdom has value above riches (**Proverbs 16:16**).

2. In what way does wisdom help a person that money cannot?

It gives life to those who have wisdom: *“For wisdom is a defence, and money is a defence: but the excellency of knowledge is, that wisdom giveth life to them that have it” (Ecclesiastes 7:12).*

- Both can be a defense (i.e. **Proverbs 10:15**), but money cannot provide salvation (**Psalms 49:6-9**, **Psalms 52:7**, **Proverbs 11:4**, and **I Timothy 6:17**) as wisdom can (**Proverbs 8:1; 35**, and **Isaiah 33:6**).

3. Can anyone amend something that God has set in a certain way?

No: *“Consider the work of God: for who can make that straight, which he hath made crooked” (Ecclesiastes 7:13)?*

- **Proverbs 19:21**, **Isaiah 46:10**, and **Acts 5:34-39**.
- Take time to consider the works of God (**Job 37:14** and **Acts 17:24-28**; cf. **Psalms 40:5**).

4. Has God only given us days of prosperity?

No, both days of prosperity and adversity: *“In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: God also hath set the one over against the other, to the end that man should find nothing after him” (Ecclesiastes 7:14).*

- **Acts 14:22**, **Romans 8:17**, **II Timothy 3:12**, **I Peter 4:12-14**, and **I Peter 5:10**; cf. **Matthew 8:20**.

5. Is it possible for a wicked person to have a better life in this world than a righteous person?

Yes: *“All things have I seen in the days of my vanity: there is a just man that perisheth in his righteousness, and there is a wicked man that longeth his life in his wickedness” (Ecclesiastes 7:15).*

- They do prosper, but not in the end (**Psalms 73:1-17**). We should not consider just things in this life, but in the end too (**Deuteronomy 32:29**).

6. Must we be careful to avoid extremes in regard to righteousness, wisdom, wickedness, and foolishness?

Yes: *“(16) Be not righteous over much; neither make thyself over wise: why shouldst thou destroy thyself? (17) Be not over much wicked, neither be thou foolish: why shouldst thou die before thy time? (18) It is good that thou shouldst take hold of this; yea, also from this withdraw not thine hand: for he that feareth God shall come forth of them all” (Ecclesiastes 7:16-18)?*

- You can go too far in becoming self-righteous or applying your own wisdom (**Psalms 10:5-6, Proverbs 12:15, Proverbs 26:12, Romans 10:1-3, II Corinthians 10:12; 10:18, Galatians 6:3, and Revelation 3:17-19**).
- You can go too far in becoming entirely evil (**Genesis 6:5, Proverbs 14:14, John 3:19-21, Acts 17:16, and II Peter 2:14**) or completely foolish (**Proverbs 1:7, Proverbs 13:16, and Proverbs 23:9**).
- We should not step back from realizing these things. For, if we fear God, we shall come forth from these sinful things (**Proverbs 9:9, Acts 2:40, and II Corinthians 6:14-18**).

7. Is wisdom stronger than physical strength?

Yes: *“Wisdom strengtheneth the wise more than ten mighty men which are in the city” (Ecclesiastes 7:19).*

- **Proverbs 21:22, Proverbs 24:5, and Ecclesiastes 9:13-18.**

8. Does the following Scripture apply to all times since humanity has existed: *“For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not” (Ecclesiastes 7:20)?*

- No, though some may have sinned at some point (Noah & Job), there have been times where there were those who had not sinned. Most notably, Jesus never transgressed (**Genesis 6:5-9, Job 1:1, Hebrews 4:14-16, I Peter 2:21-22, and I John 3:5**).
- This verse doesn't lower any expectation that God has for us either (**Psalms 4:3-4, Romans 6:1-2, I Corinthians 15:34, II Corinthians 7:1, Titus 2:11-14, I Peter 1:13-16, I John 2:1, and I John 3:8-10**).

9. Should we take into account things we've done that are wrong when we consider what others are doing as well?

Yes: *“(21) Also take no heed unto all words that are spoken; lest thou hear thy servant curse thee: (22) For oftentimes also thine own heart knoweth that thou thyself likewise hast cursed others” (Ecclesiastes 7:21-22).*

- Sometimes people say foolish things about others. Be careful not to condemn something you have done (**Matthew 7:1-5**), but rather give space for repentance (**Matthew 18:23-34** [not teaching unconditional forgiveness; **Luke 17:3-4**] and **John 8:1-11**).
- Remember what you once were (**Ephesians 5:8** and **Titus 3:1-3**).