

## Proverbs 17:24

### I. Introduction:

A. What God wants for mankind is not impossible or even hard to find (**Deuteronomy 30:11-20** and **Romans 10:5-13**).

1. The problem has often been that man wants to seek after everything but that which God wants for us (**Isaiah 55:1-7**).
2. That problem continued in the first century (**Philippians 2:21**) and is not set to change for the better in the future (**II Timothy 3:13**, **II Peter 3:3**, and **Jude 1:17-18**).

B. The question though comes to us. Are we, whom are in Christ Jesus, going to be distracted (**Galatians 5:16-17**, **Galatians 5:24**, and **I Peter 2:11**)?

1. Are we hungry and thirsty for the right things (**Matthew 5:6**)?
2. Think about how Jesus taught His disciples in regard to being focused on spiritual things (**Matthew 6:19-34**).

II. Body: *“Wisdom is before him that hath understanding; but the eyes of a fool are in the ends of the earth”* (**Proverbs 17:24**).

A. Looking at some of the terms of our study:

1. “Wisdom”: “Wisdom (in a good sense): — skilful, wisdom, wisely, wit...” (Strong’s # 149). Cf. **Proverbs 1:1-7**
2. The term translated “understanding” is very broad. The Hebrew term appears @ 2109 times in the O.T. It is most often translated “before” (1137 times) and face (390 times). Therefore, the idea is that wisdom is in front of the reader.
3. “Fool”: “properly, fat, i.e. (figuratively) stupid or silly: — fool(-ish). Fool, stupid fellow, dullard, simpleton, arrogant one” (Strong’s # 3684). Cf. **Psalms 49:10**, **Proverbs 3:35**, **Proverbs 13:20**, **Proverbs 15:14**, etc.

B. Godly wisdom is attainable (**Proverbs 3:13**, **Proverbs 4:5-7**, and **Proverbs 19:8**).

1. There is a difference between godly wisdom and worldly wisdom (**I Corinthians 1:18-31** and **I Corinthians 3:18-19**).
2. For us today, we can obtain wisdom through the written word of God which is right in front of us (**I Corinthians 2:1-16**, **Colossians 3:16**, and **II Timothy 3:15-17**).
3. For us today, correction is a source of wisdom (**Proverbs 29:15**).
4. For us today, things around us can provide us with wisdom (**Proverbs 6:6-11**).
5. For us today, wisdom is obtained through instruction (**Proverbs 8:33**, **Proverbs 9:9**, **Proverbs 19:20**, and **Colossians 1:28**).
6. For us today, wisdom is obtained through observation of the failures of others (**Proverbs 21:12**).

7. Once found, wisdom is stored up inside of the heart of those that find it (**Proverbs 14:33**).

C. The fool just doesn't see clearly or stay focused on the right things (**Ecclesiastes 2:14**).

1. Fools just keep feeding on foolishness (**Proverbs 15:14**).
2. While the instruction is to invest in wisdom (**Proverbs 23:23**), such an investment doesn't make any sense for a fool (**Proverbs 17:16**).
3. What does God tell us about the carnally focused eyes of a man (**Proverbs 27:20**)?
4. Are your eyes set on things temporary (**Proverbs 23:5**)?
5. Is eternal life enough for you, me, us; as it was for the faithful of the past who didn't even know what we know (**Hebrews 11:8-16**; cf. **I Peter 1:1-12**)?

D. Where should our attention be focused (**Colossians 3:1-4** and **Hebrews 13:14**)?

1. Our treasure hunt (**Matthew 13:44-46**).
2. What have we come to (**Hebrews 12:22-23**; **12:28**)?
3. What should we long for (**Psalms 119:166-167** and **Psalms 119:174**)?
4. Yet, when the world comes calling what is the price those seeking more than Heaven will settle for (**Matthew 16:24-27**)?

III. Conclusion: **Ecclesiastes 6:7-9**