

Ecclesiastes 7:19-29 – Desirable things – Part 4

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Solomon pointed out to you that wives were good but didn't satisfy the soul, construction projects were good but they didn't satisfy the soul, power was good but it didn't satisfy the soul, knowledge was good but it didn't satisfy the soul, wine and music were good they did not satisfy the needs of the soul. **So Solomon pointed you to God – the ultimate source of satisfaction.** After pointing you to God, Solomon **showed what things you should desire after meeting God.** Some of these desirable things we have looked at so far are: Satisfaction, reality, a good reputation, a serious disposition 部署 toward life, not oppressing others, learning patience, using wealth wisely, having a submissive attitude, and having a balanced view toward life. Today we will look at another thing that you should desire... because you belong to Christ.

Our headings are: **A Wisdom that Strengthens,** and **Wisdom that Strangles.**

Our goals are: **That, based on the promises of Christ and your duty to him, you will endeavor to acquire and use this gift so men will bring glory to Christ.**

A Wisdom that Strengthens

19 Wisdom strengthens the wise More than ten rulers of the city.

- 1. If you have wisdom you will not be overly condemning of others.** With wisdom you will not be pretending you are righteous. With wisdom you will be patient. With wisdom you will live your life in all areas for the glory of God' you'll live a balanced life. With wisdom you will face reality and not dream about doing impossible things. With wisdom you will use your wealth wisely. With wisdom you will learn to serve others and not oppress them. This is the kind of wisdom you need. This is the kind of wisdom of which you need to grab hold.
 - 2. In fact if you have wisdom, Solomon said that you are better than 10 rulers of the city...**not just better than rulers who were special men...but better than 10 of these rulers.
Ecclesiastes 9:18 Wisdom is better than weapons of war; But one sinner destroys much good."
 - 3. But I have no doubt that Solomon was pointing to that ultimate Wisdom that gave life –Jesus Christ** – whom Solomon called "Wisdom" in Proverbs. Through your knowledge of Christ and by grabbing on to Jesus Christ you get the ultimate protection of all – protection from hell and the Devil. It wasn't David's military prowess 威力 that caused him to destroy Goliath...but it was Christ working through him...to keep that line of promise for the Messiah to come. In keeping with his poetic style, Solomon described Jesus as a tree of life...
Proverbs 3:18 She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, And happy are all who retain her.
This is the same expression that Jesus used of himself (dying on a green tree) and which John used of Jesus in Revelation. The argument is like this: Wisdom gives life. Jesus gives life. Jesus is wisdom. Christ is called the "Wisdom" of God. He gave you the ultimate protection of all.
John 17:3 "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.
The reason wisdom is in the feminine 阴性词 is because wisdom is expressed as a feminine word.

20 For there is not a just man on earth who does good And does not sin.
- 4. On the contrary to Christ (Wisdom) and the strength that he gives you, what can you see in a man without Christ's wisdom?**
A man without Wisdom is weak and sinful. He is sinful because even though he appears to do good works, he does not do good works from a heart that is clean. Christ demands that all good works be done from faith in him, it must be done according to God's law, and it must be done for the Christ's glory. This is why Solomon can assuredly state that there is none who does good (by oneself). You need the strength that comes from God's Wisdom to do good. Even those who are believers in Jesus Christ become weak, slip, and fall from time to time when they work from their own strength. When they fall, they need Christ's blessing to stand up again.
Isaiah 64:6 But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away.
Proverbs 20:9 Who can say, "I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin"?
1John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
 - 21 Also do not take to heart everything people say, Lest you hear your servant cursing you.
22 For many times, also, your own heart has known That even you have cursed others.
- 5. The man with true Wisdom will not be distracted by the hurtful things men might say -a very appropriate encouragement for today with so many personal attacks against Christians. Foolish men may say things that are unwise and unthinking.**

And if you are hurt by the foolish things other might say you are more likely to get distracted from doing what God planned for you to do.

6. You yourself may have said similar foolish things about others...so don't have self-righteous indignation 愤怒. And even if you have not openly spoken bad about someone, you most likely thought evil about them. You therefore are warned against hypocrisy 虚伪, being two-faced. Your mouth is filled with dumb things.

A Wisdom that Strangles

23 All this I have proved by wisdom. I said, "I will be wise"; But it was far from me. 24 As for that which is far off and exceedingly deep, Who can find it out?

1. Solomon was strangled when desired to gain wisdom (how to be saved) by his own strength...and he found it far from himself. His futility 无效果的行动 left him exasperated 激怒. Wisdom was out of his reach. He realized why he could not find wisdom: Man was a long way away from creation when he was perfectly in the image of God, and he wasn't a good reflection of God's image anymore. Consider instructions from Job.

Job 28:12 "But where can wisdom be found? And where *is* the place of understanding? 13 Man does not know its value, Nor is it found in the land of the living. Job 28:14 The deep says, *'It is not in me';* And the sea says, *'It is not with me.'* 15 It cannot be purchased for gold, Nor can silver be weighed *for its price.* 16 It cannot be valued in the gold of Ophir, In precious onyx or sapphire. 17 Neither gold nor crystal can equal it, Nor can it be exchanged for jewelry of fine gold. 18 No mention shall be made of coral 珊瑚 or quartz水晶, For the price of wisdom *is above rubies.* 19 The topaz of Ethiopia cannot equal it, Nor can it be valued in pure gold. 20 "From where then does wisdom come? And where *is* the place of understanding? 21 It is hidden from the eyes of all living, And concealed from the birds of the air. 22 Destruction and Death say, *'We have heard a report about it with our ears.'* 23 God understands its way, And He knows its place.

Wisdom took wings and flew away from men. In the Fall Christ separated himself from Adam and stopped meeting with him in the evening. But Wisdom was restored on the cross.

25 I applied my heart to know, To search and seek out wisdom and the reason of things, To know the wickedness of folly, Even of foolishness and madness.

2. Solomon strangled himself when he desired to gain wisdom (how to be saved) by human reason. He said that though he took a circuit to find wisdom, but could not find it. His tour did not help him. And we know that Solomon here was not referring to simply world knowledge. He already talked about the futility of knowledge. Here he spoke of the way of truth to please God – how to be saved (true Wisdom). He had looked everywhere else but God. Maybe he looked to the false gods of his many wives...or to the philosophers of his day. He finally learned better, as you today have: true Wisdom was from God alone...the true God.

1Corinthians 2:10 But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.

26 And I find more bitter than death The woman whose heart is snares and nets, Whose hands are fetters. He who pleases God shall escape from her, But the sinner shall be trapped by her.

3. Now is this a change of topic? Was this about Solomon's adulterous life after he became king? Some people believe that. Others believe that Solomon was making an appeal back to creation when Eve deceived Adam and trapped him with "snares and nets." (Satan said: Eat of the fruit and be wise.) You see this similarly when Potiphar's wife attempted to deceive Joseph...or how Delilah seduced Samson. I believe Solomon the woman to which Solomon was referring was the opposite of true Wisdom...the woman he spoke highly of in Proverbs. This woman is the "Deceiver" who brings down one's soul to the grave...who cries out and says: Come into my bed. This deceiver is pictured as a harlot. Some of his wives may have done this as well...but Solomon is using the "deceitful" woman to picture all kinds of temptations. Solomon was strangled by deception of false promises of wisdom.

Proverbs 5:3 For the lips of an immoral woman drip honey, And her mouth *is* smoother than oil; 4 But in the end she is bitter as wormwood, Sharp as a two-edged sword.

This deceiver is like a panther 豹 who hides his head until it is time to leap upon his prey and then

destroys it, or like a hunter who goes out with his nets. John Gill summarized the deceiving work of a harlot...a prostitute: "...schemes and contrivances of a harlot are to ensnare men by her wanton 淫荡的 looks and lascivious 淫荡的 gestures; which are like snares laid for the beasts." This is pretty much the language of Revelation when the Scarlet Harlot was destroyed for her deception 诡计. She is like a female dog. Deuteronomy 23:18.

Revelation 17:4 The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. 5 And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

Practically, there are many things that men look to or looked to in the past to save them. They looked for a fountain of youth...the developments in science...to new drugs...but none has provided a way of man to find true peace with God...that peace that man needs in his heart.

27 "Here is what I have found," says the Preacher, "Adding one thing to the other to find out the reason, 28 Which my soul still seeks but I cannot find: One man among a thousand I have found, But a woman among all these I have not found.

4. Solomon looked but could not find wisdom... He looked in the wrong places. He finally did find Wisdom... the Bridegroom – true Wisdom-and he was pure and bloody...

Songs of Solomon 5:10 THE SHULAMITE My beloved is white and red, Chief among ten thousand.

29 Truly, this only I have found: That God made man upright, But they have sought out many schemes."

5. Solomon knew for sure that God had made man perfect, but man fell from that perfect condition... and ultimately, God had to recreate man to restore that damaged image through his Wisdom.

Genesis 1:27 So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Ephesians 4:24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Adam and Eve looked for new idea-new ways of living-wanting to be different. But they fell:

Genesis 3:5 "For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Sins are the inventions of men, and these are many and numerous. Man seeks to gratify 使满足 his senses. From this lust followed innumerable evils

Conclusion:

Desire Wisdom who strengthens you in all areas of your life so you can work and worship the Lord, now on earth, and later, in heaven. Without that wisdom you are unable to do what God expects of you. That wisdom is Jesus Christ. His Word reveals how you can be saved and how you can enjoy God's blessings and do his work after you are saved. Reject man's wisdom. It is deceiving. It is a noose around your neck that strangles.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Paul prayed in: 2Timothy 2:26 "...and *that* they may come to their senses *and escape* the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to *do* his will." Only the wisdom of Christ, as revealed in his Word, will cause you to escape the traps of the Devil. The Devil is out to steal, kill, and destroy. Christ gives life. So use and enjoy God's Wisdom. Study his Words well. Wisdom's work on the cross was sufficient for the sins of the whole world. Wisdom is abundant. You have Wisdom. You enjoy him. Share him.

Finally, you are a pawn 被人利用者 of the Devil without the grace of God. So choose God. Choose life. Choose the one who really loves...who sent his Son to die for you...not the one who will make you die for your own sin... Choose life today.