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*Ecclesiastes 3:16 And I saw something else under the sun: In the place of judgment--wickedness was there, in the place of justice--wickedness was there.*

*Ecclesiastes 1:17 Then I applied myself to the understanding of wisdom, and also of madness and folly, but I learned that this, too, is a chasing after the wind.*

*Ecclesiastes 11:5 As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things.*

#### **Examples of God's wisdom given to us**

*Ecclesiastes 12:13 Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. <sup>14</sup> For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.*

*Ecclesiastes 5:1 Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. Go near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools, who do not know that they do wrong.*

*<sup>3</sup> As a dream comes when there are many cares, so the speech of a fool when there are many words. <sup>7</sup> Much dreaming and many words are meaningless. Therefore stand in awe of God.*

*Ecclesiastes 9:10 Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the grave, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom.*

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## **The Omniscience of God**

### **The Character of God—part 7**

August 12, 2018

#### **Wisdom about: God, human nature, relationships, and finding real life**

*Proverbs 8:1 Does not wisdom call out? Does not understanding raise her voice? <sup>2</sup> On the heights along the way, where the paths meet, she takes her stand; <sup>3</sup> beside the gates leading into the city, at the entrances, she cries aloud: <sup>4</sup> To you, O men, I call out; I raise my voice to all mankind.*

*<sup>5</sup> You who are simple, gain prudence; you who are foolish, gain understanding. <sup>6</sup> Listen, for I have worthy things to say; I open my lips to speak what is right. <sup>8</sup> All the words of my mouth are just; none of them is crooked or perverse. <sup>9</sup> To the discerning all of them are right; they are faultless to those who have knowledge.*

*<sup>10</sup> Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold, <sup>11</sup> for wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her.*

*Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

#### **Wisdom for daily life**

*Colossians 3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual*

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songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

James 3:13 (RSV) Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good life let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. <sup>15</sup> This wisdom is not such as comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. <sup>16</sup> For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. <sup>17</sup> But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, without uncertainty or insincerity. <sup>18</sup> And the harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Psalms 119:9–11

Ephesians 5:15-18

Colossians 1:9 (RSV) And so, from the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, <sup>10</sup> to lead a life worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.

<sup>11</sup> May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

James 1:2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, <sup>3</sup> because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.

<sup>4</sup> Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. <sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.

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## Facing the realities of life

There are three phrases that he repeats throughout Ecclesiastes:

a. “Life under the sun” –

b. “Meaningless, meaningless, all is meaningless” –

c. “A chasing after the wind” –

Ecclesiastes 1:1 The words of the Teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem:

<sup>2</sup> **Meaningless! Meaningless!** says the Teacher. **Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.**

<sup>3</sup> What does man gain from all his labor at which he toils **under the sun?**

Ecclesiastes 1:12 I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup> I devoted myself to study and to explore by wisdom all that is done under heaven. What a heavy burden God has laid on men!

<sup>14</sup> I have seen all the things that are done **under the sun;** all of them are **meaningless, a chasing after the wind.**

## God answers the “WHAT?” and “HOW?”

Ecclesiastes 7:15 In this meaningless life of mine I have seen both of these: a righteous man perishing in his righteousness, and a wicked man living long in his wickedness.

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