

October 21, 2018

It's a Wonderful (Brief) Life

Ecclesiastes



Reflections

The fear of the LORD is wisdom.

- Proverbs 1:7; Job 28:28; Ecclesiastes 12:13

Wisdom is becoming competent with regard to the complex realities of life: knowing how things really happen, knowing how things really are, and knowing what to do about it.

- Gerhard Von Rad

Practical wisdom is a true characteristic that is bound up with action, accompanied by reason, and concerned with things good and bad for a human being . . . He who (has practical wisdom) is skilled in aiming, in accord with calculation, at what is best for a human being.

- Aristotle

Wisdom is the ability to know the right thing to do when the moral rules don't apply.

- Timothy Keller

Wisdom is knowing God's world and having a knack for living in it.

- Morgen Kleinknecht

Wisdom is personally knowing your place in God's world and having a hunger and knack for living in the light of that.

- Personal Working Definition


Sermon

What is Wisdom?

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Scripture

Ecclesiastes 7:8-14, 23-24; 8:14-17

- ^{7:8} Better is the end of a thing than its beginning,
and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.
- ⁹ Be not quick in your spirit to become angry,
for anger lodges in the heart of fools.
- ¹⁰ Say not, "Why were the former days better than these?"
For it is not from wisdom that you ask this.
- ¹¹ Wisdom is good with an inheritance,
an advantage to those who see the sun.
- ¹² For the protection of wisdom is like the protection of money,
and the advantage of knowledge is that wisdom preserves the life of him who has it.
- ¹³ Consider the work of God: who can make straight what he has made crooked?
- ¹⁴ In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider: God has made the one as well as the other, so that man may not find out anything that will be after him.
- ²³ All this I have tested by wisdom. I said, "I will be wise," but it was far from me. ²⁴ That which has been is far off, and deep, very deep; who can find it out?
- ^{8:14} There is a vanity that takes place on earth, that there are righteous people to whom it happens according to the deeds of the wicked, and there are wicked people to whom it happens according to the deeds of the righteous. I said that this also is vanity. ¹⁵ And I commend joy, for man has nothing better under the sun but to eat and drink and be joyful, for this will go with him in his toil through the days of his life that God has given him under the sun.
- ¹⁶ When I applied my heart to know wisdom, and to see the business that is done on earth, how neither day nor night do one's eyes see sleep, ¹⁷ then I saw all the work of God, that man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun. However much man may toil in seeking, he will not find it out. Even though a wise man claims to know, he cannot find it out.

Events & News

Community Groups: Invitation to Leadership, October 27

If you're interested in taking more ownership of your Community Group, or in learning about what it means to be a CG Leader, come to our invitation to Leadership. Learn how to take on more ownership within your CG and what it looks like to lead a new group. Breakfast provided.

Boxes of Love, Begins October 28

Our annual Boxes of Love campaign kicks off in just a few weeks! Boxes of Love provide wholesome, filling holiday meals to families in need. Begin considering how you can participate, whether saving up to buy an extra box or helping deliver boxes in mid-November.

Church Plant Vision Meeting - PCC Southbay, November 11

Church planter Russ Hightower will lead a discussion on the vision for planting in the South Bay (Torrance, Manhattan Beach, etc) and the steps we'll take over the next few months to support the new church. Come find out how you can support this gospel, missional initiative.

View and sign up for all events on our mobile app, on our website, PacificCrossroads.org/Events, or speak with someone at the 'New Here?' tent.

Ministry Resources

Congregational Care

Our congregational care team is here to care for you if you are in a difficult place. Email pastoralcare@pacificcrossroads.org or call our office at 310.551.0081.

Celebrate Recovery

Join together weekly with others to celebrate God's healing power in our lives. Visit PacificCrossroads.org/CelebrateRecovery.