



ECCLESIASTES

Discovering Life in the Land of Death



Ecclesiastes 7:15-29 CSB

¹⁵ In my futile life I have seen everything: someone righteous perishes in spite of his righteousness, and someone wicked lives long in spite of his evil. ¹⁶ Don't be excessively righteous, and don't be overly wise. Why should you destroy yourself? ¹⁷ Don't be excessively wicked, and don't be foolish. Why should you die before your time? ¹⁸ It is good that you grasp the one and do not let the other slip from your hand. For the one who fears God will end up with both of them.



Ecclesiastes 7:15-29 CSB

¹⁹ Wisdom makes the wise person stronger than ten rulers of a city.
²⁰ There is certainly no one righteous on the earth who does good and never sins. ²¹ Don't pay attention to everything people say, or you may hear your servant cursing you, ²² for in your heart you know that many times you yourself have cursed others. ²³ I have tested all this by wisdom. I resolved, "I will be wise," but it was beyond me. ²⁴ What exists is beyond reach and very deep. Who can discover it?



Ecclesiastes 7:15-29 CSB

²⁵ I turned my thoughts to know, explore, and examine wisdom and an explanation for things, and to know that wickedness is stupidity and folly is madness. ²⁶ And I find more bitter than death the woman who is a trap: her heart a net and her hands chains. The one who pleases God will escape her, but the sinner will be captured by her. ²⁷ “Look,” says the Teacher, “I have discovered this by adding one thing to another to find out the explanation, ²⁸ which my soul continually searches for but does not find: I found one person in a thousand, but none of those was a woman. ²⁹ Only see this: I have discovered that God made people upright, but they pursued many schemes.”

1. Karma Doesn't Exist



Ecclesiastes 7:15 CSB

¹⁵ In my futile life I have seen everything: someone righteous perishes in spite of his righteousness, and someone wicked lives long in spite of his evil.



1 Peter 3:18 ESV

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God

2. Both Religion and Irreligion Fail



Ecclesiastes 7:16-18 CSB

¹⁶ Don't be excessively righteous, and don't be overly wise. Why should you destroy yourself? ¹⁷ Don't be excessively wicked, and don't be foolish. Why should you die before your time?

“You can run from God either by breaking His rules, or by keeping them. The former says God doesn’t own me. The latter says God owes me.”

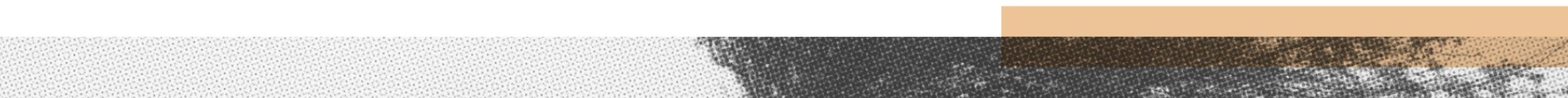
Tim Keller

2. Both Religion and Irreligion Fail



Ecclesiastes 7:16-18 CSB

¹⁸It is good that you grasp the one and do not let the other slip from your hand. For the one who fears God will end up with both of them.





Proverbs 9:10

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom , and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

3. The Strength Yet Limits of Wisdom



Ecclesiastes 7:19-22 CSB

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Ecclesiastes 7:23-24 CSB

²³I have tested all this by wisdom. I resolved, “I will be wise,” but it was beyond me. ²⁴What exists is beyond reach and very deep. Who can discover it?

4. Our Need For A Saviour



Ecclesiastes 7:22-29 CSB

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Ecclesiastes 7:22-29 CSB

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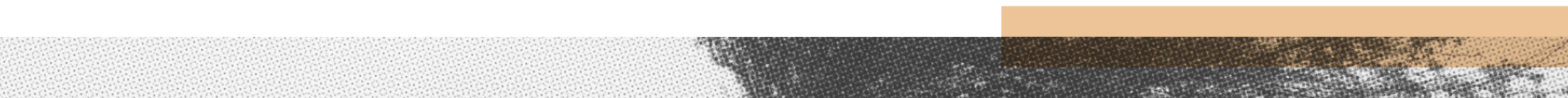


Ecclesiastes 7:22-29 CSB

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God's Story

Creation. Fall. Redemption. Renewal.



Jesus The Wisdom Of God



Colossians 2:2-3 ESV

² that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.