

Shepherding the Wind
Ecclesiastes 1:12-18
Shepherding Wisdom

- The pursuit of meaning must be personal. (v. 12)
- Solomon moves from an impersonal introduction of his topic to his personal pursuit of meaning and purpose.
 - This makes this book particularly applicable to our culture, which is very focused on the self.
- The pursuit of meaning must be intentional. (v. 13a)
- In the OT, the heart is the center of the human person (it includes the mind, will, and emotions).
 - To search out means to seek out the roots of a matter.
 - To seek means to investigate on all sides.
- The pursuit of meaning will often be a heavy burden. (v. 13b)
- If the answer to all that ails us is to be found under the sun, then this task is indeed an unhappy business.
 - God has made us in such a way that we desire to find the truth, but also this desire can only be satisfied by Him.
- The pursuit of meaning “under the sun” will be like “shepherding the wind.” (v. 14-17)
- Striving (*Reut*) means to strive, shepherd, or feed.
 - “Meaning may be there but it cannot be grasped – it is like trying to shepherd the wind – and the enigmas cannot be reconciled.”
 - The proverbs found in verse 15 bring home this point.
 - No investigation is going to be able to make up what is deficient...so much is lacking that it boggles the mind to even try to count it up.
- The pursuit of meaning will ultimately be worthwhile because it will lead us to God. (v. 18)
- Wisdom (*hokma*) is knowledge that begins with and makes its foundation the fear of the Lord.
 - Wisdom that finds its foundation and roots in secularism (a proud and very human wisdom) only “Dethrones God and deifies man, pretending to give him laws and regulations whereby to make him happy.”
 - In the end, “the problem calls for a solution greater than the sum of all its parts. It calls for the intervention of God.”