



"THE VALUE OF WISDOM"
Ecclesiastes 7:1-14

In **6:12** Solomon asked, "***Who knows what is good for man in life?***" That is the key that takes him on to the next section.

He answers with the word "***better***" eight times: in verses **1, 2, 3, 5, 8,** and **10**. Out of this, it appears there are seven proverbs in verses **1-14** concerning what is "***better***".

- | | |
|--|---|
| (1) A good name (v. 1a) | (2) The day of death (v. 1b) |
| (3) House of mourning (v. 2) | (4) Sorrow (v. 3) |
| (5) Rebuke of the wise (v. 5) | (6) The end of a thing (v. 8a) |
| (7) To be patient in spirit (v. 8b) | |

What is the value of having God's wisdom in our lives? In this text we will see things concerning the value of wisdom.

WISDOM EVALUATES THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF LIFE FROM GOD'S POINT OF VIEW - 1-10

It helps us to do four things.

- It helps us **RECOGNIZE** what is really important in life - 1a
(Prov. 22:1; Song of Sol. 1:3; Proverbs 10:7 Ps. 112:6)

- It helps us **REALIZE** the value of things like sorrow and death – 1b-4
It is more beneficial:

- In terms of **Instruction**
- In terms of **Consolation**
- In terms of **Anticipation**

- It helps us **RESPOND** to others as God would desire – vv. 5-7
Of course, a “***fool***” in the Old Testament is an unbeliever.

- It helps us **REACT** properly to present difficulties and disappointments 8-10

We need to wait on the Lord and be patient (*Prov. 14:17, 29; 15:18; 16:32*).

WISDOM EXCEEDS THE ADVANTAGES OF WORLDLY POSSESSIONS AND SECURITY – vv. 11-12

WISDOM ENCOURAGES OUR DEPENDENCY UPON GOD AND HIS PLANS FOR US - vv. 13-14

The wisdom we may gain will cause us to depend more on God and His plan. There are three reasons for this:

- Because we cannot **CHANGE** what God has done
- Because we cannot **CONTROL** our circumstances
- Because we cannot **COMPREHEND** our future

We don't know what is going to happen tomorrow; but God does.
God is in control of all things. We need to rest in that.