

Pursuit: Ecclesiastes
“What a Wise Person Does”

Ecclesiastes 9:2 - 10:20

September 13, 2020 / Pastor Shawn Penn

1. Wise Person lives with the _____ in mind.

² The same destiny ultimately awaits everyone, whether righteous or wicked, good or bad, ceremonially clean or unclean, religious or irreligious. Good people receive the same treatment as sinners, and people who make promises to God are treated like people who don't.

³ It seems so wrong that everyone under the sun suffers the same fate. Already twisted by evil, people choose their own mad course, for they have no hope. There is nothing ahead but death anyway.

⁴ There is hope only for the living. As they say, “It's better to be a live dog than a dead lion!” ⁵ The living at least know they will die, but the dead know nothing. They have no further reward, nor are they remembered.

⁶ Whatever they did in their lifetime — loving, hating, envying — is all long gone. They no longer play a part in anything here on earth.

Ecclesiastes 9:2-6 (NLT)

2. Wise Person lives _____.

⁷ So go ahead. Eat your food with joy, and drink your wine with a happy heart, for God approves of this! ⁸ Always be clothed in white, and always anoint your head with oil. ⁹ Enjoy life with your wife, whom you love, all the days of this meaningless life that God has given you under the sun — all your meaningless days. For this is your lot in life and in your toilsome labor under the sun. ¹⁰ Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the realm of the dead, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom.

Ecclesiastes 9:7 (NLT); 8-10 (NIV)

3. Wise Person Chooses Wisdom _____.

¹¹ I have observed something else under the sun. The fastest runner doesn't always win the race, and the strongest warrior doesn't always win the battle. The wise sometimes go hungry, and the skillful are not necessarily wealthy. And those who are educated don't always lead successful lives. It is all decided by chance, by being in the right place at the right time. ¹² People can never predict when hard times might come. Like fish in a net or birds in a trap, people are caught by sudden tragedy. ¹³ Here is another bit of wisdom that has impressed me as I have watched the way our world works. ¹⁴ There was a small town with only a few people, and a great king came with his army and besieged it. ¹⁵ A poor, wise man knew how to save the town, and so it was rescued. But afterward no one thought to thank him. ¹⁶ So even though wisdom is better than strength, those who are wise will be despised if they are poor. What they say will not be appreciated for long. ¹⁷ Better to hear the quiet

words of a wise person than the shouts of a foolish king. ¹⁸ Better to have wisdom than weapons of war, but one sinner can destroy much that is good.
Ecclesiastes 9:11-18 (NLT)

4. Wise Person follows what is _____.

¹ As dead flies give perfume a bad smell, so a little folly outweighs wisdom and honor. ² The heart of the wise inclines to the right, but the heart of the fool to the left. ³ Even as fools walk along the road, they lack sense and show everyone how stupid they are. Ecclesiastes 10:1-3 (NIV)

5. Wise Person remains _____.

⁴ If a ruler's anger rises against you, do not leave your post; calmness can lay great offenses to rest. ⁵ There is an evil I have seen under the sun, the sort of error that arises from a ruler: ⁶ Fools are put in many high positions, while the rich occupy the low ones. ⁷ I have seen slaves on horseback, while princes go on foot like slaves. Ecclesiastes 10:4-7 (NIV)

6. Wise Person lives with an _____.

⁸ He who digs a pit may fall into it, and a serpent may bite him who breaks through a wall. ⁹ He who quarries stones may be hurt by them, and he who splits logs may be endangered by them. ¹⁰ If the axe is dull and he does not sharpen its edge, then he must exert more strength. Wisdom has the advantage of giving success. Ecclesiastes 10:8-10 (NASB)

7. Wise Person _____ what is _____.

¹¹ If a snake bites before you charm it, what's the use of being a snake charmer?
Ecclesiastes 10:11 (NLT)

“Fools” will:

- (a) speak without knowledge (v.12-14);
- (b) destroy themselves (v.15);
- (c) destroy a nation (v.16-18);
- (d) keep doing what they're doing (v.19)

8. Wise Person will _____.

²⁰ Never make light of the king, even in your thoughts. And don't make fun of the powerful, even in your own bedroom. For a little bird might deliver your message and tell them what you said.

Ecclesiastes 10:20 (NLT)

Discussion Questions
September 13, 2020

1. What was your “A-Ha” from Sunday’s message? Why?
2. Pastor Shawn outlined several things a “Wise Person” does, can you restate them? Would you consider yourself “wise” based on these observations? Why? Why not? Would you say that the people who have the greatest influence on your life are “wise”?
3. Why do you think Solomon revisits his argument about every person having to face the reality of death? Has this reality “hit” you? Why or why not?
4. Does it ever bother you that when you are “wise,” no one notices or cares? Why or why not? Honestly.
5. Have you ever had an experience where one small mistake destroyed a tremendous amount of good work? What happened? What lessons did you learn?
6. If you need wisdom, what is one practical change you could make in your life to get it? If you have wisdom, how can you be sure you are putting it into practice?
7. When have the words of a wise person “been gracious” to you? What was the situation? How can you make sure you speak wise words?