

Recovering AWE

(aw) n. strong feeling of amazement

desert breeze
community church



Saturday & Sunday, May 14/15, 2016 Ray Davis

“Perspective” Ecclesiastes 7:1-14

What’s the main difference between a Christian and a non-Christian? A relationship with God by grace through faith in Jesus Christ (Eph2:8-9)! If you have a relationship with God and walk with Him over time you will more and more put off folly and put on wisdom. Wisdom is seeing and responding to life from God’s perspective. Your perspective about the events in life will not only determine how you feel about those events but also how you will respond to those events (Pro23:7 NASB).

Verses 1-4 A good name is better than precious ointment, and the day of death than the day of birth. ² It is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting, for this is the end of all mankind, and the living will lay it to heart. ³ Sorrow is better than laughter, for by sadness of face the heart is made glad. ⁴ The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.

- A Funeral is better than a Party. Because it gives us an opportunity to inventory our lives. Ps90:12, 14; Ps51:12

Verses 5-6 It is better for a man to hear the rebuke of the wise than to hear the song of fools. ⁶ For as the crackling of thorns under a pot, so is the laughter of the fools; this also is vanity.

- Rebuke is better than Praise. Because it keeps us from being self-deceived. Pro27:6, 17; Heb3:12-13; Pro12:1

Verses 7-9 Surely oppression drives the wise into madness, and a bribe corrupts the heart. 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.

- The difficult way is better than the easy way. Because there really are no short cuts to living a quality life. 2Tim1:7; Phil2:12-13

Verse 10 Say not, “Why were the former days better than these?” For it is not from wisdom that you ask this.

- Today is better than Yesterday. Because wisdom learns from the past enjoys the present and looks forward to the future. Phil3:13-14; Number13:25-14:12

Verses 11-12 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.

- Wisdom is better than wealth. Because wealth without wisdom can result in financial bondage. Five Biblical principles of wise financial management: Budget (Pro21:5) Accounting (Pro27:23-24) Self-Control (Pro25:2) True wealth (Pro17:1) Generosity (Pro22:9)

Verses 13-14 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.

- Both good and bad days come from the hand of God. Because He loves us, knows what is best for us and will always do what is best for us. Job 2:10, 13:15; Heb12:5-11; Pro3:5-6

Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

Colossians 2:3 In Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Wisdom is not a technique to be master but is about knowing & experiencing the beauty and glory of the person and work of Christ Jesus transforming every part of your life.

Growing Notes

- 1) If the main difference between a Christian and a non-Christian is a relationship with God. What would that relationship consist of and what difference will it make? What is wisdom & what role will it play (Ps9:10)?
- 2) Read Ecclesiastes 7:1-4. Why is a funeral better than a party (Ps90:12)? Why do you think our lose of joy in God is the greatest threat to living an unwasted life (Ps90:14)? Read vv5-6. Why is a rebuke better than praise (Pro27:6, 17; Heb3:12-13; Pro12:1)?
- 3) Read vv7-9. Why is the difficult way (disciplined life) better than the easy way (non-disciplined life) (2Tim1:7; Phil2:12-13)? What will a non-disciplined life cost you? Read v10. Why is today better than yesterday (Phil3:13-14; Num13:25-14:12)?
- 4) Read vv11-12. Why is wisdom better than wealth? Read vv13-14. Why is it important to keep in mind that both good and bad day are from the hand of the Lord (Job 2:10, 13:15; Heb12:5-11; Pro3:5-6)? Who is the source of all wisdom (Col2:3)? What is God speaking to you? Pray.