

ETERNITY IN THE HEART

Ecclesiastes...The Search for a Christian Worldview



PROVED BY WISDOM *(Ecclesiastes 7)*

I. INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL QUALITY (7:1)

- A. Earned reputation—"a good name".
- B. Earned experience—"day of death"

"The doorstep to the temple of wisdom is a knowledge of our own ignorance."—Charles Haddon Spurgeon

II. LIFE AS A SERIOUS BUSINESS (7:2-6)

- A. The soul's lessons in testing—"the house of mourning".
- B. The folly of frivolity—"the laughter of fools".

"The way of a fool is right in his own eyes."— Proverbs 12:15

III. MORALITY AND THE TEST OF TIME (7:7-9)

- A. Dangers of impulsiveness (vs. 7, 8)
- B. Dangers of lacking self-control (v. 9)
 - 1. "Provoked in your spirit"—the human spirit.
 - 2. The soul as a channel for anger.

"There can be no wisdom disjoined from goodness."—Richard Trench

IV. TRANSFORMING KNOWLEDGE INTO WISDOM (7:10-14)

- A. Unapplied experience and knowledge unfulfilling (v. 10)
- B. The mature view of God's sovereignty and will (vs. 11-14)

"Knowledge is horizontal. Wisdom is vertical—it comes down from above."
—Billy Graham

V. SPIRITUAL TEMPERANCE (7:15-22)

- A. The soul's view of unfairness in life (v. 15)
- B. Balance of soul and spirit (vs. 16-22)

"In an attempt to be reasonable, man has become irrational. In an attempt to deify himself, he has defaced himself. In an attempt to be free, he has made himself a slave. And like Alexander the Great, he has conquered the world around him but has not yet conquered himself."—Ravi Zacharias

VI. THE QUEST FOR WISDOM (7:23-26)

- A. King Solomon's education (vs. 23-25)
 - 1. Incomplete spiritual application—"the scheme of things".
- B. Wisdom's enemy—the temptress of the soul (v.26) [note Proverbs 7]

VII. SOUL-SEARCHING DISCOVERIES (7:27-29)

- A. Emptiness of subjectivity—knowledge without wisdom (v.27)
- B. Limits of human character and endeavor (vs. 28, 29)
 - 1. Evaluation of human weakness.
 - 2. "Man" and "woman"—moral symbols rather than gender designations.

FOR REFLECTION...

1. *The first seven verses of this chapter sound fairly negative and morbid. Are there positive applications in them?*
2. *King Solomon seems to be giving women a hard time in verses 26-28. How do we know that he is not speaking simply as an anti-feminist?*

