

THE END OF THE MATTER

Pastor Lucas Almeida—Central Baptist Church—April 7th, 2024

ECCLESIASTES 12:9-14

(ESV)

[9] Besides being wise, the Preacher also taught the people knowledge, weighing and studying and arranging many proverbs with great care. [10] The Preacher sought to find words of delight, and uprightly he wrote words of truth.

[11] The words of the wise are like goads, and like nails firmly fixed are the collected sayings; they are given by one Shepherd. [12] My son, beware of anything beyond these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh.

[13] The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. [14] For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

INTRODUCTION

In Ecclesiastes, the Preacher is interested in instructing his son in the fundamental matters of life.

Proverbs 1:8

*[8] Hear, my son, your father's instruction,
and forsake not your mother's teaching,*

Proverbs 2:1, 5

*[1] My son, if you receive my words
and treasure up my commandments with you,*

*[5] then you will understand the fear of the LORD
and find the knowledge of God.*

There is a God in heaven, therefore live your life for him.

WISDOM THROUGH KNOWLEDGE

Knowledge is a necessary aspect of wisdom.

2 Chronicles 1:9–10—“O LORD God, let your word to David my father be now fulfilled, for you have made me king over a people as numerous as the dust of the earth. [10] Give me now wisdom and knowledge to go out and come in before this people, for who can govern this people of yours, which is so great?”

Proverbs 2:6

*For the LORD gives wisdom;
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;*

The Christian faith progresses as truth is learned and as truth is taught.

2 Timothy 2:2—*and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.*

GROWTH THROUGH PAIN

The knowledge of God leads to growth, but growth always comes with pain.

Psalm 119:71

*It is good for me that I was afflicted,
that I might learn your statutes.*

2 Timothy 4:2—[2] *preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.*

Proverbs 27:6

*Faithful are the wounds of a friend;
profuse are the kisses of an enemy.*

Isaiah 40:8

*[8] The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.*

Sometimes we can confuse the accumulation of knowledge with the pursuit of wisdom.

“Visit many books, but live in the Bible.” –**Charles Spurgeon**

The word of God is not only inerrant, it's also sufficient.

2 Timothy 3:16–17–*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, [17] that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

OBEDIENCE THROUGH FEAR

The fear of the Lord instructs us how to live with God, as though he is our father, but also as though he is our judge.

Psalm 2:11

*[11] Serve the LORD with fear,
and rejoice with trembling.*

The Lord demands that we keep his commandments perfectly.

Psalm 119:1–3

*[1] Blessed are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the LORD!
[2] Blessed are those who keep his testimonies,
who seek him with their whole heart,
[3] who also do no wrong,
but walk in his ways!*

James 2:10–*For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it.*

“Ecclesiastes is a question to which Jesus is the answer.” –**Bobbie Jamieson**

Matthew 11:28-30–*“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. [29] Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”*