



STRIVING

AFTER
WHAT
MATTERS

The Value of Foolishness

We live in a world that
values foolishness and
ignores wisdom.

The Value of Foolishness

Ecclesiastes 9:13



13I have also seen this example of wisdom under the sun, and it seemed great to me. **14**There was a little city with few men in it, and a great king came against it and besieged it, building great siegeworks against it. **15**But there was found in it a poor, wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city. Yet no one remembered that poor man. **16**But I say that wisdom is better than might, though the poor man's wisdom is despised and his words are not heard. ...

17The words of the wise heard in quiet are better than the shouting of a ruler among fools.

18Wisdom is better than weapons of war, but one sinner destroys much good.

¹Dead flies make the perfumer's ointment give off a stench;

so a little folly outweighs wisdom and honor.

**²A wise man's heart inclines him to the right,
but a fool's heart to the left.**

³Even when the fool walks on the road, he lacks sense,

and he says to everyone that he is a fool.

**⁴If the anger of the ruler rises against you, do not leave your place,
for calmness will lay great offenses to rest.**

**⁵There is an evil that I have seen under the sun,
as it were an error proceeding from the ruler:
⁶folly is set in many high places, and the rich sit in a low place. ⁷I have seen slaves on horses,
and princes walking on the ground like slaves.**

**⁸He who digs a pit will fall into it,
and a serpent will bite him who breaks through
a wall.**

**⁹He who quarries stones is hurt by them,
and he who splits logs is endangered by them.**

**¹⁰If the iron is blunt, and one does not sharpen
the edge,
he must use more strength,
but wisdom helps one to succeed.**

**¹¹If the serpent bites before it is charmed,
there is no advantage to the charmer.**

12The words of a wise man's mouth win him favor,

but the lips of a fool consume him.

13The beginning of the words of his mouth is foolishness,

and the end of his talk is evil madness.

14A fool multiplies words,

though no man knows what is to be,

and who can tell him what will be after him?

15The toil of a fool wearies him,

for he does not know the way to the city.

16Woe to you, O land, when your king is a child,
and your princes feast in the morning!

17Happy are you, O land, when your king is the
son of the nobility,
and your princes feast at the proper time,
for strength, and not for drunkenness!

18Through sloth the roof sinks in,
and through indolence the house leaks.

19Bread is made for laughter,
and wine gladdens life,
and money answers everything. ...

**20 Even in your thoughts, do not curse the king,
nor in your bedroom curse the rich,
for a bird of the air will carry your voice,
or some winged creature tell the matter.**



Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ...



**And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
“Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man.
He will dwell with them, and they will be his
people, and God himself will be with them as
their God. He will wipe away every tear from
their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither
shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain
anymore, for the former things have passed
away.**

Revelation 21:1-4

**During this time of reflection,
please consider this question:**

**Is your ultimate hope in
Christ and Christ alone?**