



The Conclusion of The Matter

Ecclesiastes 12:9-14, Psalms 23, John 3:16-17

Wisdom

- **Wisdom is not just an accumulation of knowledge, but knowledge applied to a certain circumstance.**
- **Solomon did not hoard his knowledge.**
- **When Solomon talked about proverbs, he was talking about the collection of wise sayings found in Ecclesiastes.**
- **Solomon pondered these proverbs to see if they had substance worthy of this book.**

Words of Truth

- **Solomon not only had the ability for choosing good words, but the way he put them together made you think.**
- **Solomon had the gift of being able to string words together in a pleasant and delightful way.**
- **Solomon was able to find proverbs that were universally true across time and space.**
- **Even though his words could be gloomy or depressing at times, they rang of truth that allowed people to connect with them in a real way.**

Goads and Nails

- **The word Shepherd, capitalized in verse 11, could refer to Solomon himself because kings were considered shepherds.**
- **A goad is an instrument that shepherds used to prod livestock along the road.**



Goad



Goats and Nails

- **The word Shepherd, capitalized in verse 11, could refer to Solomon himself because kings were considered shepherds.**
- **A goad is an instrument that a shepherd used to prod livestock along the road.**
- **The words of the Shepherd can be quite painful.**
- **Solomon used this method to get people to stop and think about things and ideally change the course of how they did life.**
- **In Matthew 16, Jesus goaded Peter back to right thinking because he was not going in the same direction as Jesus.**
- **The words of the wise are like goads, but they are also like firmly embedded nails.**

A Warning

- **Be careful what you read because not all of it is wisdom.**
- **We must measure the world's wisdom against God's wisdom.**
- **God wants us to fear Him and keep His commandments.**
- **Fear is a reverent respect for Who God is -- for His power and His authority.**
- **The more we meditate on God's power and His love, the more we begin to comprehend the whole character of God.**
- **The natural response of knowing we worship a God Who's powerful but loves us unconditionally is to obey His commandments.**

Obedience

- **When we talk about keeping God's commandments, we are talking about obedience.**
- **A child who loves a parent obeys not out of obligation but out of love.**
- **When we obey God's commands, we begin to come in line with His will.**
- **From the first day in the garden, we were created to fear God and keep His commandments.**
- **We were created to have a reverent fear for God and to live under submission to Him.**

Judgment

- **Everyone will stand in front of the judgment seat of God.**
- **In the end everyone will get exactly what he deserves.**
- **Someday every thing, every thought, and every deed will be exposed before God.**
- **Solomon's picture of God was that of a God of judgement.**
- **God did not send Jesus into the world to judge us, He sent Him to save us.**
- **The One Who could be our Judge turned out to be our Savior.**

Conclusion

- **We can not live this life totally from man's perspective (under the sun).**
- **We are not to live life under the sun; we have to learn to live life under the Son.**
- **Jesus did not come to condemn us; He came to save us, now and forever.**