

I. The Excellence of the Wise Worker (v 1).**A.** Context and Introduction**B.** Four Distinctives of the excellence of wisdom and wise worker:

- 1) The Rarity of Wisdom (1 Chr 12:32; Gen 41:38)
- 2) The Surpassing Quality of Wisdom (Gen 40:8; Dt 4:8; Jn 11:9-10).
- 3) The Blessing of Wisdom (1 Sam 14:27; Psa 34:5).
- 4) The Gulf of Difference between the Wise and Fool (Pr 21:29)

C. Uses from the Point

- 1) Do you value wisdom? Even more than might and power?
- 2) Wisdom is given only by grace; but to those who seek it, it is given liberally (Num 11:29; Acts 2:17-18).
- 3) Pursue the appointed means to grow in wisdom (Psa 90:12)

II. The Characteristics of the Wise Worker (vv 2-6).**A.** The Application Up-Front: Every person is under some earthly authority (even the King is the servant of the people, Eccl 5:9), therefore, all are called to wisdom in our stations of inferiority.**B.** On Authority, Submission, and Responsibility

- 1) What are a covenant, vow, and oath?
 - a) Covenant — The relationship as a whole, together with its parties and terms
 - b) Vow — The parties obliging themselves to the terms of the covenant
 - c) Oath — The invocation of God's holy name or some other threatening as a witness to the vow, that He should carry out the curses (as the word can also mean) of the covenant should the terms not be upheld by one or both parties.
- 2) What is this passage saying
 - a) Your duty to the king, based upon your station as a citizen
 - b) The King's duty to establish justice
 - c) Because of God's oath upon all, inferiors and superiors alike, to punish the wicked

C. Five Characteristics of the Wise Worker

- 1) Does not expect perfection (Eccl 7:9)

a) Because of your vows to God and your obligations to your neighbour (Eccl 5:2)

b) Because the grass is not always greener (though we so often believe it to be so).

c) We are not, then, sectarians - either with the Church or with our fellow man (Phil 3:15-16)

2) Does not partake in evil (2 Sam 24:1-4).

a) When possible, it may be covered in love (Pr 10:12)

b) If necessary, it may be directly/openly defied (Acts 5:29).

c) You could seek to deter the just consequence of their wickedness by your own wisdom and diligence (1 Sam 25:32-35)

d) You could overlook the lesser offense and address the weightier root of the sin, namely unbelief (2 Kgs 5:3).

3) Is prepared for the consequences of righteousness

4) Is confident that sin is never necessary

5) Whose assumption of responsibility is the acceptance of difficulty

D. Reflection and Self-Examination**III. The Limits of the Wise Worker (vv 7-9).**

A. Summary: We have neither all authority (the right), nor all power (the might).

B. Six Limitations of even the Wise Worker

- 1) Does not know the future (Mt 6:27)
- 2) Cannot control others
- 3) Cannot stop death
- 4) Cannot leave conflict
- 5) Will not be left alone
- 6) Cannot overcome the strong man

C. Uses from the Text

- 1) Consider here the surpassing excellencies of Jesus Christ (Jn 6:64; Genn 1:2; Jn 3:8; Col 1:17; Jn 10:18; Lk 23:46, 11:21-22)
- 2) Rejoice in the excellencies of Christ —
 - a) As the expression of our faith, hope, and love
 - b) As the means of encouragement when He feels far (Song of Songs 5:8-16)
- 3) Rest and be content in the might and mercy of God