

Don't Waste Your Life Like SOLOMON

WOLBI: Proverbs Hour-3

WOLBI Proverbs Class Themes

- Hour-1: God Has Given the **Guide to Wisdom** in Proverbs
- Hour-2: The Best Life Possible is: Doing the **Will of God** for Life
- **Hour-3: Don't Waste Your Life Like SOLOMON**
- Hour-4: The **Ultimate Sin** is Pride
- Hour-5: The **Second Greatest Day** of Your Life
- Hour-6: The **Un-intoxicated** Life
- Hour-7: Raising Kids Who **See Your Character** & Look for the **One God Says** is Best
- Hour-8: Cultivating a **Godly Work Ethic**
- Hour-9: Fools, Focus & **Avoiding Being Lost in Electronica**
- Hour-10: The **Power** of Spoken Words

The Wisdom of God that Solomon Neglected to Obey: **God's Road to Lifelong Usefulness**

THE WISDOM OF GOD THAT SOLOMON NEGLECTED TO OBEY:
GOD'S ROAD TO LIFELONG USEFULNESS

Becoming King meant so much: a palace to build, an army to raise and manage, a city to fortify, a nation to rule and defend, a family to protect and supply and a personal life to maintain. In the middle of all that God placed this incredible task: make a personal copy the 192 pages of the Pentateuch by hand and carry it around with you.

For just a moment, why not take your Bible and feel the pages that make up Genesis 1 through Deuteronomy 34. Feel that thickness? Now think 3,000 years ago. How would you make a personal copy of that much material? No copy machines, office stores, or printers. Just oil lamps to see by; and to capture words it meant either chisels into rock or crude ink onto animal skins. Think of how hard it was to get your recording skin materials, gather the tools to make and apply ink with, and find a flat spot to write on an animal skin.

A skilled scribe who was at his peak could copy the words of a page in 2-3 hours if everything was set for him (ink, paper, pen, reader, etc.). The Pentateuch (the first five books of the Bible) has 5,852 verses and nearly 160,000 Hebrew words. At normal speed, it would take a minimum of 900 hours to hand copy the Hebrew letters with ink and quill onto an animal skin or parchment; that is six months of work, non-stop at eight hours a day!

So, that was a HUGE request from God, and meant that His Word was VERY important for Solomon as he started to rule. What do these verses show as what God sees as critical for any leader? There are truths here that go way beyond just a King of Israel. There are some eternal truths that can help shape a life that counts for eternity in these words that come directly from God. Note these truths. First, God warned those who wanted to be useful, that there were pitfalls, temptations and distractions that lessen usefulness and erase rewards.

The Pathway to Pursuing God

Deuteronomy 17:18-20

THE PATHWAY TO PURSUING GOD

Next, in Deuteronomy 17, we see a road God marked for future leaders. The kings of Israel were to follow this pathway to lifelong usefulness. This was the way to please God as they lived their lives filled with responsibilities and challenges. For us who also want to be useful and pleasing to God, these truths are priceless. God tells us what a life that pursues Him looks like. We are not left to wonder, speculate, or think up our own way to try to please God. He tells us just what He expects. If you have never closely studied these verses, tonight is a challenge to do so. Let me just survey these truths that lead to lifelong usefulness to God. Look down at Deuteronomy 17:18-20, and note these ten elements that were specific instructions for those kings, and clear applications for all the rest of us:

“Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom,

The Pathway to Pursuing God

1. **God MUST become YOUR personal pursuit:** v. 18b that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book,
2. **Pursuing God will be INCONVENIENT to Your Life:** v. 18c from the one before the priests, the Levites.
3. **God's Word must become Your GUARDED Treasure:** v. 19a And it shall be with him,
4. **Reading the Word Must become YOUR Personal Habit:** v. 19b and he shall read it
5. **Nurturing Your Soul must become a LIFELONG Habit:** v. 19c all the days of his life

The Pathway to Pursuing God

6. Spiritual Growth takes up Your Time, and is Not Instantaneous: v. 19d that he may learn to fear the LORD his God

7. God Wants Your Obedience not Just Going Through the Motions: v. 19e and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes,

8. God Expects You to Choose Humility: v. 20a that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren,

9. God Expects Your Submission: v. 20b that he may not turn aside from the commandment to the right hand or to the left,

10. God Wants to Bless You and offers You a Spiritual Heritage: v. 20c and that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he and his children in the midst of Israel.

Solomon Towers over Most Who Ever Lived

SOLOMON TOWERS OVER MOST WHO EVER LIVED

Solomon was the author of 3,000 proverbs and 1,005 songs the Bible tells us (I Kings 4:32). His God given wisdom surpassed all the noted wise men of his day (I Kings 3:12).

In our study of PROVERBS this week we look at one of the few Old Testament books that state their purpose clearly at the start. In Pr. 1:2-6 we find a twofold purpose:

- Build Moral Character 1:3-5 (Solomon failed here)
- Build Mental Wisdom 1:2, 6 (Solomon was given this)

But Proverbs is only one of three books God used Solomon to write.

God Gives Us a Context

GOD GIVES US A CONTEXT

Think of the setting behind these books and the corresponding eras of Solomon's life that the Bible portrays. Remember, God places the details for us to see His purposes and plans reflected against the backdrop of everyday life.

- What we are sure of is the vast reputation Solomon had for wealth and wisdom.
- His fleet was known to the ports of the world. Those ships based in Elat would wind their way from Gibraltar to Arabia to India.
- His commercial enterprises brought him vast and rare treasures. Exotic goods of the fabled East and the jungles of Africa flowed into Jerusalem. Vast caravans plied the trade routes east and west bringing the goods of the world to his doorstep.

Solomon's Three Books May Have Arisen From The Three Stages Of His Life

1. **Song of Solomon** from the young man in love.
2. **Proverbs** from the wisdom of a mature man at his zenith.
3. **Ecclesiastes** from and old and bitter man looking back on his wasted opportunities.

SONG OF SOLOMON FROM THE YOUNG MAN IN LOVE

Women from every corner of the world sought and hundreds found his favor.

Romance and love flowed from this most amazing man.

From this era flows the SONG OF SOLOMON.

PROVERBS FROM THE WISDOM OF A MATURE MAN AT HIS ZENITH

Then there was the stream of inquirers who came to sit at his feet in wonder as he spoke. At the head of the line was the Queen of Sheba who came 1,200 miles with a vast fortune.

She was overcome at his exceeding wisdom and wealth. "The half was never told me!" His actual possessions were so much more than his unbelievable reputation. She went away in wonder and praise to his God.

From this era rises the PROVERBS.

Read the Book of Proverbs at least twice a year. If I were going to write an ad for it, it would go like this:

"The richest Jew in history tells the inside secrets of how to make big money, gain enormous political influence, attract beautiful women, yet not make everyone hate you. Send \$19.95, plus \$4 postage and handling, to....."

ECCLESIASTES FROM AND OLD AND BITTER MAN LOOKING BACK ON HIS WASTED OPPORTUNITIES

Yet with all that Solomon didn't end well.

With incredible Divine Blessings.

With personal visits from the God of Heaven.

With wisdom unsurpassed on the planet.

With wealth beyond the greatest kings of the Earth.

With wine, women and palatial living . . . nothing ever satisfied him.

The hands spread out to God in prayer were pulled back and instead grasped the idols of paganism.

The heart of zeal for the Living and True God became cold, distant and empty.

From this final era trickles ECCLESIASTES. A look at Ecclesiastes 12 shows Solomon may have ended right.

Warning: Difficult, Hard & Evil Days Ahead Ecclesiastes 12

WARNING: DIFFICULT, HARD & EVIL DAYS AHEAD

Do you remember Solomon's inspired look at the pains, fears, and troubles of old age? Ecclesiastes 12 is a remarkable portrait of what we have to face someday. It is not a nice picture when life is empty and meaningless; but it is the best and most exciting time imaginable when life is full of God.

Please follow along with me in Ecclesiastes noting the regret filled wisdom of an empty life, as Solomon the wisest man who ever lived--remembers what he foolishly neglected.

Stand as we read Ecclesiastes 12:1-14 (NKJV):

Don't Waste Your Life Like SOLOMON

DON'T WASTE YOUR LIFE LIKE SOLOMON

When God describes what happens as we age, He calls it difficult times or even "evil" days . Old age can become a time when life is hardest, strength is least, and evil is most pressing—but that is not how it has to be! David shows us by his life that ending well by fearing no evil is possible through our Good Shepherd Jesus Christ.

Life is short, time flies, death is inescapable—but without Christ life becomes a wearying chase for something good enough to keep their minds off thinking this all may be over soon.

Stark Contrasts: David vs. Solomon

STARK CONTRASTS

In God's Word the Bible, two old men sat down and wrote their summary of life.

- One was the father, the other his son.
- Both wrote under the inspiration of God's Spirit.
- Both had suffered through many afflictions.
- Both knew the Lord in an unusual way.

For one life is looked back upon almost bitterly, speaking of the emptiness or vanity of life. His name was Solomon. Perhaps too late, realized that the only way to live and the best way to die--is to do so reflecting on the plans that God had for us in the first place. His name was Solomon.

His summary is a Book called Ecclesiastes.

The Book of Ecclesiastes could be called the lessons of what happens when you neglect a lifestyle of the fear of God described in the book of Proverbs. Solomon found out after his restless pursuit of all that the world had to offer—that nothing but God satisfies, and that life and death can be quite empty when God is left out.

David Invested His Life with God

Psalm 23; Acts 13:22, 36

DAVID INVESTED HIS LIFE

The other looks back and sees a life long growth in experiencing God. His name was David, father of Solomon. David ended well and feared no evil because he remembered his Creator.

His summary was still the song he wrote to his Good Shepherd called Psalm 23.

He sang to Him from many quiet and remote hillsides as he sat under the glistening stars. One of David's songs is perhaps the most well known song in the world. We call it the 23rd Song or Psalm. But it may really have been David's 1st song. It is certainly his most beloved song.

As a youth, David remembered His Creator. In fact I believe that's why a weary and exhausted Solomon—who had chased every pleasure the human mind could conceive, came to the conclusion that his dad was right.

Each Day You Are Choosing Your Savings Plan: Wasting Or Investing

EACH DAY YOU ARE CHOOSING YOUR SAVINGS PLAN: WASTING OR INVESTING

When life winds down, strength gets exhausted, and the end is in sight for you--which summary will fit your life?

Will you look back on life like Solomon? Ending with bitterness, seeing all as vanity, and ending in emptiness?

Or will you look back on life like David? Ending well by fearing no evil, in hopefulness, with life long growth in experiencing God?

The choice is completely yours this morning--you are each day writing the script that will be your life's summary! The key is who you are following, where are you headed, and whether or not you have started down the right path. God's desire is that you know Him; He wants you to start early and remember your Creator when you are young—and then never forget Him.

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